AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER WEEKLY

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Free Vinnie Jones Movie Tickets

Perth Glory Colour Poster

Rebecca with Jeff Hopkins

Ericsson Cup

Scott Baillie

Manny Gotis

World Soccer

Craig Wilson's Uk Stories

and plenty of naughty stuff!

Santo The Magnificent!

Channel Ten's Santo Cilauro meets Soccer Weekly's Panel of Four Diegos. Page 7

SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY

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◆ Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to issue date.

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PROSPECT UNITED SOCCER CLUB

NSW FEDERATION DIVISION 3
COACHES WANTED
Is inviting applicants for the Positions of 1st & 2nd Grade Coaches for next year (1999)
☛ Applicants must have a Level 2 Coaching Certificate.
Send Applications to:
P.O. Box 242
SEVEN HILLS 2147

SELECTION TRIALS
PROSPECT UNITED NSW FED DIV 3
Selection Trials will be held at
VENUE:
WILLIAM LAWSON RESERVE
MYRTLE ST, PROSPECT
Time: 6.30pm — 8.30pm
Every: Tuesday & Thursday 24 & 28 November
1st & 3rd Dec; 8th & 10th December
15th & 17th December
For Further Information or Inquiries please contact:
Elvis Saric 0418 250 621 (BH) 9621 4273 (AH)
Adam Timewell 9622 2706 (AH)

Free tickets

to 'Sports Coach 98' at the Melbourne Convention Centre starting on November 26 to 28.

Reedswain Australia have 40 free tickets for the first 40 to fax their Sydney office on 02 9584 0790 with their contact details (name and address, phone).

Competition closes this Friday (20 Nov) at midday. Tickets are for trade show only.

See Reedswain's stand at 14A at the convention for all their exciting new releases of videos and books from all over the world.
See ad right.

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STONNINGTON CITY
SOCCER CLUB
SENIOR COACH REQUIRED FOR SEASON 1999
All applicants should be received by 5.00pm November 20, 1998 and forwarded to:
Club Secretary
P.O. Box 478,
MALVERN, VIC. 3144.
All applicants should have minimum Level 2 Certificate.

GLADESVILLE UNITED SOCCER CLUB Inc
NSW Soccer Federation Division 2
TRIALS
First, U21, U18
23, 26, 30 November 3, 7, 10 December
Venue
Gladesville Reserve
(Victoria Rd, Gladesville)
TIME: 6.00PM
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Andrew 9181 2856
Steve 9816 4589

CAMDEN TIGERS
SOCCER CLUB
Newly promoted club to
NSW Youth League
competition for 1999
TRIALS
Sunday 22nd November
Ron Dine Memorial Reserve
Cowper Drive, Camden
U/13s 8.30am — U/14s 10.00am
U/15s 11.30am — U/16s 1.00pm
Coaches are required for all teams and should contact Bruce Cox on 019 127 310 for an interview

Australian News

GLORY'S TAPAI AXED WHILE DURAKOVIC SIGNS FOR OLYMPIC

Sydney Olympic has come to terms with, and signed, former Socceroo defender, Mehmed Durakovic to a 2-year contract, ending speculation that he had signed with his former club, South Melbourne.

The player, who returned last week after a four year stint in the Malaysian Premier League, received a resounding welcome when introduced to Olympic's home crowd at Belmore Sports Ground tonight.

The signing was a swift reaction from the club after a freak accident saw sweeper, Kimon Taliadoros, stretchered off the field last weekend in Olympic's 1-3 loss to defending champions, South Melbourne.

The prognosis during the week from two specialists was that the Kimon will miss the remainder of the season as a complete knee re-construction is required to repair major ligament damage.

Durakovic (33), is a veteran of winning teams having won national titles in Australia with Brunswick and South Melbourne before a stint in the Malaysian competition which saw his club, Selangor, take triple back-to-back championships after a 13 year drought in the League.

Olympic coach, Branko Culina, will monitor the player's current level of match fitness (during a friendly match planned for mid-week) before making a decision on whether to rush the star defender into the "spot" left by Taliadoros.

"Mehmed is just the quality defender we need to strengthen our defence and he will also provide some much needed on-field leadership," Culina said.

Although Durakovic had six weeks to run on his contract, Selangor have agreed to release him from the commitment clearing the way for his immediate injection into the championship contending line-up at Olympic.

Durakovic sighted the "happiness of his wife and two young children" as the main reason behind his decision to settle in Sydney instead of returning to Melbourne. "There is not much more I can achieve in Melbourne, and I am really looking forward to working with Branko to secure a championship for Olympic," Durakovic said.

Socceroo Mehmed Durakovic is welcomed to Sydney Olympic by coach Branko Culina.

South Melbourne has reinforced its standing as one of the country's leading sporting clubs with today's announcement that it has secured a $1 million sponsorship deal — claiming it as the largest club sponsorship deal in the history of the National Soccer League.

Viviannes Collection, which signed a two-year deal at the start of the 1998-99 Ericsson Cup season to become South Melbourne's major sponsor, confirmed its long-term commitment to the national champions by extending its contract by two years and boosting its financial commitment to a total of $1million.

South Melbourne President, George Yasilopoulos described the deal as a 'huge step forward for Australian soccer.'

Perth Glory dropped a bombshell last weekend with the news that Socceroo attacking-midfielder Ernie Tapai has been released from the club and placed on the transfer list; effective from yesterday (Monday 16 November) writes Richard Kreider.

"Following a meeting last Saturday night between the management and Ernie Tapai it has been mutually agreed for his benefit and future career that he be placed on the transfer list", said Glory General Manager Roger Lefort. Tapai has made 237 appearances in the national league, 15 of these were with Glory last season and has played over 30 times for the Socceroos.

"Perth Glory will do everything in its power to assist Ernie with a satisfactory transition to another club. It's just unfortunate that Glory has such a strong depth with midfield players, and that Bernd cannot find a place for Ernie in his team", Lefort said.

"It goes to show that what one coach believes is a quality player and good for the Socceroos, doesn't necessary mean another coach thinks the same. We are guided by our coach, who I don't think anybody can deny is doing a good job".

The news has hit Tapai greatly, and says he is more disappointed than how he felt when Australia were eliminated from France 98 by Iran. "I have enjoyed my time here at Perth Oval and would have loved to stayed, but it is not to be" said 31-year old Tapai.

"This is not like I'm a single person and can move on without any problem, I've got to reorganise my life", said Tapai. "I have a family, and a wife who is about to give birth to another child. I just hope my next club takes this into consideration."

Melbourne Sports Books
New Soccer Books & Videos

Title				Price
1. Vinne Jones' New Book				$50
2. West Ham History				$45
3. Kenny Dalglish	s/back	$25	h/back	$45
4. David Ginola: New Book				$45
5. Johánn Cruyff: New Book				$50
6. Ferenc Puskas: New Book				$35
7. Rothman's Football Yearbook 98/99				$60
8. News of the World Football Annual 98/99				$20
9. Playfair Football Annual 98/99				$20
10. David Beckham: My Story				$35
11. Frank Farina: My World Is Round				$25
12. Tony Adams: Addicted				$50
13. Glenn Hoddle: World Cup diary				$50
14. Kevin Keegan: My Autobiography				$50
15. Diego Maradona: Hand Of God	s/back	$20	h/back	$40
16. George Best: A Portrait of a Legend				$50
17. Gianfranco Zola: 2 new books	s/back	$30	h/back	$50
18. A Soccer Century: A History of WA Soccer 1896-1996				$20

And many other soccer books & videos.

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GLADESVILLE HORNSBY

WOMEN'S SOCCER CLUB

"KOALAS"

Address all correspondence to Hon. Secretary
P.O. Box 525, Gladesville NSW 2111

PRE-SEASON TRIALS

NEW CLUB IN WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE LOOKING AT CHOOSING 30 PLAYERS FOR 1999 SEASON.
TRIALS ARE BEING CONDUCTED EVERY TUESDAY 6.15PM FOR 6.30PM START AT MORRISON BAY SPORTS FIELDS AT FRANCIS ST, PUTNEY AND ON 23RD NOVEMBER 2.30PM-4.30PM AT FIELD 11 MEADOWBANK PARK CONSTITUTION RD, MEADOWBANK

GOALKEEPERS ESPECIALLY SOUGHT

CONTACT:
ADRIAN JONES 9808 2093
MOBILE: 0418 406 800 • JOE CALVI 0418 466 492

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

TRIALS

Eastern Suburbs Wanderers

WE ARE BACK

Eastern Suburbs have been re-admitted to SYL for 1999. We have a new stadium, with a great pitch & a new Head Coach John Calleja (Level 3)
*** We have positions available in all teams ***
Become part of a very exciting 1999 with us.
All Trials will be held in Centennial Park at the soccer pitches, to the right of Parkes Drive, beside Randwick Pond and behind the Equestrian Field.
(If in doubt, check in the Gregorys/UBD)

****** TRIAL DATE ******
Saturday 21st November

U13 Youth League 9.00am-11.00am
U14 & U15 Youth League 11.00am-1.00pm
U16 Youth League 1.00pm-3.00pm
U18 NSW Super League 1.00pm-3.00pm
U21 NSW Super League 3.00pm-5.00pm

All enquiries, including
Super League First Grade to:
John Calleja - **9554 4213** (ah)
or John Velthuys - **0418 664 796**

AUBURN UNITED
SOCCER CLUB

State League Division 1
1st Grade, U/21s and U/18s
Trials will be held under senior coach Eddie McCreadie, on the 21st and 22nd of November behind Mona Park.
Trials will start at 2.30pm
For further information contact:
Eddie on 9736 2612 (W) or 9709 6935 (H)

The club will also be holding trials for the junior league on the 28th and 29th of November behind Mona Park.
There will be teams from U/7s to U/16s.

For further information contact:
Tuncay Avsar on 0413 728 321

HAJDUK WANDERERS SOCCER CLUB

HOME GROUND: HAJDUK STADIUM ST JOHNS PARK

NEW NSW SOCCER FEDERATION COMPETITION
Under 11 & Under 12 Youth League Trials

Trials to be conducted at
HAROLD READ PARK,
GIRRAWEEN ROAD, GIRRAWEEN

Thursday 19th & 26th November – 6.30pm Sharp
Thursday 3rd December – 6.30pm Sharp

HEAD COACH:
Phillip Pavela - 0416 209 140

For further information
Contact: CHARLES ABDILLA 0416 171 896

Australian News

Have your say ...

NOBODY KNOWS SOCCER LIKE SEVEN!

If you would like to see bias in sports reporting, you should look at Channel 7 and Channel 9 in Perth.

Despite the fact that Perth Glory is pulling in crowds of 17,000 to home games, both Channel 7 and Channel 9 saturate their sports news with cricket, basketball and anything else. We are lucky if we get a ten second spot once a week.

I find this lack of coverage of Glory amazing, particularly since THE PEOPLE of Perth are voting with their feet regarding their choice of summer sports.

They are packing into Perth Oval for Glory games, while the crowds at the basketball and cricket are at best lamentable.

Channel 7 widely proclaims 'Nobody knows Perth like Seven.' How can they possibly justify this claim when they are ignoring the fastest growing sport in WA?

Surely the soccer supporters of Perth deserve better than this.

K. Kendrick
Applecross, WA

COME BACK ALL IS FORGIVEN!

Your recent request to report media bias had me thinking long and hard as to why SBS and 'Mr Soccer' Les Murray has, it appears, abandoned the local game.

I know Channel 7 has the rights to Australian Soccer and, apart from the money Soccer Australia received from this deal, I have yet to be convinced this will be good for our game.

Having said that, surely SBS can give us the full round results on Toyota World Sports on a Monday night without infringing too many rights.

Les, please remember two wrongs have never made a right and never will, forget about Channel 7 and think about the loyal fans of soccer in particular, the four million viewers which won a Logie for SBS.

Let's hope we can stay friends as we do not need another TV enemy for our game.

L. Fardell,
Terrigal, NSW.

THERE IS TOO MUCH

I agree that it is too much, but what can we do? We must walk before we run, but let's not forget to put the cart before the horse. The people have spoken, but we must have the will of the people.

Remember, you can cover your tracks, but who has the key to the barnyard? How can it be stopped and, more importantly, from where and who?

Remember, no news is good news. And bad news travels quicker than the horse. You can't ride two horses with one behind, so it's one step forward, two steps back.

My pleasure is, and has always been, my business, but when is business a pleasure? And is pleasure business? I think not.

I have been a fan since I was knee high to a goat, and I can tell you I have not seen so much of it. But of course the younger generation can not be told, they can only learn like the Chinese did during the Ming dynasty.

They said, he who rides in darkness has the mountain people on his side, but he who sits in a container of bacon, only has himself to blame.

Maybe too much is not enough. I can't get no satisfaction, yet you can't buy love. I tell you what I want, what I really really want, I'd like to teach the world to sing, in perfect harmony.

Mr Squid
Berkshire, NSW.

BELCONNEN'S 16-YEAR DREAM REALISED

By Graham Cooke

The 70 or so loyal supporters who gathered for the opening of Belconnen Soccer Club's new licensed premises at McKellar on November 7, had waited a long time for the moment.

Master of ceremonies Steve Foreshaw was a young player approaching his prime with Belconnen United when the scheme was first mooted. He went on to become its captain, senior coach and an administrator before it came to fruition.

Meanwhile United's own fortunes fluctuated, involving at least one battle against relegation and three premierships in the years when the scheme seem to hang in limbo.

It was 1982 when United first approached the then National Capital Development Commission with a proposal to establish its own ground. The first choice was its current pitch at Hawker Oval, 100 metres from its original club and motel premises, but that was rejected.

Instead the NCDC made a counter proposal of land at McKellar, on the other side of Belconnen, where the club could build another licensed club as well as develop a modern stadium. Officials saw the sense of the move — it would virtually tie up the north of the National Capital for Belconnen and soccer — and accepted.

Then the trouble began.

First the area, an old rubbish tip, was found to be prone to subsidence. A great deal of fill would be needed to stablise it, and this could only come from the new town of Gungahlin, development of which had hardly begun.

Eventually the soil began to move in, then there was the problem of the gazettal of an access road to the site. It was only a matter of a few metres, but there was no provision for one on any plan. It had to be givena legal entity, and that took time. Another hold-up.

At last the club was ready to proceed, but in the several years which had already elapsed changes had taken place in McKellar. The site for the club was now bounded on one side by homes, where none had existed originally.

Residents liked the idea of an open space — not of a licensed club and a stadium with floodlights. By now the NCDC had been replaced by self-government. Despite the fact the area had been clearly sign-posted as reserved for sporting facilities, legislators decided there had to be an inquiry. More delay.

Concessions were made as Belconnen worked its way through a detailed process of public consultation. The stadium shrank from 12,000 capacity to half that, but it did not stop a vocal group of residents who battled grimly to the end.

Finally Planning Minister Gary Humphries gave the go-ahead. There was a final piece of frustration as one of Canberra's wettest winters on record pushed back the completion date by about a month.

As president Ken Carter pointed out, there is still plenty of work to do. The stadium has yet to be built — that completion date is scheduled for late next year — and further down the track there are provisions for an indoor sports hall, training pitches and an extended car park.

What Canberra is gaining is a compact, modern ground which fills the gap between the aging and often sub-standard government-run ovals such as Hawker, and the expensive giant at Bruce Stadium.

The ceremony showed the project has attracted support across party lines. The opening was performed by the club's long serving patron, Liberal senator Margaret Reid, but shadow sports minister Kate Lundy also spoke, as did members from both sides of the ACT Legislative Assembly.

BARRIOS REVITALISES 'BANK

Moorebank Sports Club is now the highest placed Liverpool club in the NSW Soccer Federation and will play in the First Division competition in the 1999 season.

The club has enjoyed great success in recent seasons having progressed from Fifth to First Division in fou years.

Much of the club's recent success in due in no sma part to the appointment o Alfredo Barrios as First Grad coach in 1996.

Alfredo was a professiona footballer in Argentina an migrated to Australia in the la 1980s with his wife and tw young children.

He is acknowledged as bein one of the most skilful playe to play in the National Leagu in Australia. Alfredo played f the Parramatta Eagles club f several seasons.

Alfredo has moulded th Moorebank First Grade side in a highly skilled and disciplin outfit and he has assisted number of local players to rea their full potential footballers.

He will also play important roll in the recen acquired Youth League.

The Moorebank club, w strong support from Liverpo City Council, has develop superb facilities at Hammon ville Park where home gam are staged.

See ad (left) for details their trials.

Stanmore Hawks Soccer Club

1999 TRIALS

Division One Youth League and Junior League

Wednesday 18th & 25th November
TEMPE RESERVE – Holebeach St, Tempe

Junior League Grades U/11 & U/12
Youth League Grades U/13, U/14, U/15 & U/16
Time: 6.00pm-8.00pm

Sunday 22nd November
MAHONEY RESERVE – Illawarra Rd, Marrickville

Times
Youth League Only

U/16	9.00am	U/14	10.30am
U/15	12 noon	U/13	1.30pm

Coaches required for U/11 & U/12

Contact: **Leo Harris 0417 678 607**

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

Tuesday 17th & 24th November & 1st December
Thursday 19th & 26th November & 3rd December
TEMPE RESERVE – Holebeach St, Tempe

1st Grade, U/21 & U/18
Time: 6.00pm-8.00pm

Contact: **Steve Economides 0419 686 569**

1999 SEASON TRIALS

Eastern Suburbs Wanderers

Want to be part of a winning club?

We have a new home stadium, with a great pitch. New Club Head Coach – John Calleja (Level 3) & we're heading up to Super Youth League

Become part of a very exciting 1999 with us

All Trials will be held in Centennial Park at the soccer pitches, to the right of Parkes Drive, beside Randwick Pond and behind the Equestrian Field. (If in doubt, check in the Gregorys/UBD)

TRIAL DATES

Saturday 21st November

U13 Youth League	9.00am-11.00am
U14 & U15 Youth League	11.00am-1.00pm
U16 Youth League	1.00pm-3.00pm
U18 NSW Super League	1.00pm-3.00pm
U21 NSW Super League	3.00pm-5.00pm
Senior Women (State League Div 1)	3.00pm-5.00pm

All enquiries, including *First Grade* to:
John Calleja (9554 4213 a.h.)
or John Velthuys (0418 664 796)

MOOREBANK SPORTS CLUB LTD
SOCCER CODE
Mens: DIVISION 1

Players required for
1st Grade, U21 and U/18 Trials
every Tuesday and Thursday night
7.00pm at

Hammondville Park

Heathcote Road, Moorebank.

Contact: **Arthur Sullivan**
9825 2397 (AH) **9648 5007**

ALSO TRIALING FOR YOUTH LEAGUE PLAYERS AND COACHES

U/11s Sundays 9am-10.30am from 22 November
U/12s Sundays 10.30am-12noon from 22 November
U/13s Mondays 5.30pm-7pm from 23 November
U/14s Mondays 6.30pm-8pm from 23 November
U/15s Tuesdays 6pm-7.30pm from 24 November
U/16s Thursdays 6pm-7.30pm from 19 November

Australian News

LES MURRAY

Time for an update, a semi regular feature in this column given that this is a country which insists on not appointing a national coach.

An update on what coaches, worldwide, are available and with the optimum credentials to take over the Australian job. So here is this week's list, in alphabetical order and with my three cents worth on how seriously their candidature should be considered.

FABIO CAPELLO. Forget the former AC Milan and Real Madrid master. Too much in demand. He's already being touted as the man to take over at CF Barcelona if and when Dutchman Louis Van Gaal gets the flick. Which would mean Van Gaal would be available. Now there's a thought.

PAULO CESAR CARPEGGIANI. This Brazilian, who steered Paraguay to its bet World Cup ever in France, got the boot after the World Cup. Beats me why. Little, destitute Paraguay was only eliminated by eventual winners France on the Golden Goal. He took Flamengo to the world club championship as a spring chicken coach in 1983. He would do and, for the right money, could be got. Before some Sheik's fat cheque takes him to the Middle East.

CHA BUM-KUN. Some, who build shrines to European coaches, would ask how can we appoint a Korean national coach. I as why hot? The methodical Cha did brilliantly with South Korea and, in my view, their finals appearance only went off the rails because of a stupid player's self-inflicted red card early in their opening game. Cha got the blame. He, to me, remains unblemished. Unless his name, a potential plaything for headline writers, is a problem.

JOHANN CRUYFF. The living legend, under whom Barcelona dominated Spanish football for half a decade, is in premature retirement. He has not, I suspect, taken a stressful club gig because of his suspect heart condition. But sunny, she'll be right, low pressure Australia might tempt him off the golf course. For the right money of course. IMG where are you?

KEN DALGLISH. Perish the thought. His re-introduction of a boring, defensive style of play at Newcastle got him no results and, rightly, the sack.

RICARDO GOMEZ. Another Brazilian with a fine record with Paris St Germain but from whence he was flicked. We could do worse.

JUPP HEYNCKES. He has recently knocked back the German job because of the health of his wife. Won the European Cup with Real but has faltered with other clubs. Not sure whether his Germanic bent for organisation and discipline would suit our players. But worth a thought.

AIME JACQUET. Now here's a candidate. The current World Cup winning coach no less, yet unemployed. His credentials alone would be a marketing goldmine. If we could afford him. Sorry, but he'd be more expensive than even Venables. But no harm in asking, provided you have the manager of the World Bank in tow.

ANTONIO OLIVEIRA. Tasted much success with FC Porto in Portugal and fair success with the Portuguese national team. A self-made millionaire who hardly needs a coach's salary to get by, he might be affordable. Recently sacked by Real Betis in Spain over a row with the President. If David Hill was around that may have disqualified him. But David Hill is not around. Come to think of it, where is he?

CARLOS QIEIROZ. Who? Well actually he coached Portugal to the World Youth Championship in 1989 and repeated the feat in 1991 (beating Australia in that momentous semi at the Estadio da Luz). A splendidly educated, worldly, modern, presentable ideologue, he would be most suitable. His name is not big enough to demand the unpayable. He is currently somewhere in the Middle East, hopefully bored to tears.

CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA. A World winner with Brazil but what else did he do? Seriously, he flunked with the United Arab Emirates in Italia 90 and then again, being sacked mid-stream, with Saudi Arabia in France 98. His club record is unimpressive. Can't do much unless he has Mario Zagallo assisting him and Romario scoring his goals. Not recommended.

DANIEL PASSARELLA. The former (as a player) Argentine hard man was a huge success as Argentine national coach. With better luck, and with Van Der Saar not taking a despicable dive when allegedly head butted by Ariel Ortega, they may have done Brazil in the World Cup semis and met France in the final of France 98. His stepping down from that job was totally voluntary. Worth the approach. Some of our players might have to watch their haircuts, of course.

SLOBODAN SANTRAC. The France 98 coach of Yugoslavia was unjustly treated when flicked after the World Cup. Had it not been for Dennis Bergkamp's un-punished stomping, they may have gone a lot further. Yugoslavia played some of the most delightful football in the Cup and deserved better. Santrac is no marketing commodity but, as a technically credentialled man, eminently suitable for us.

Distilling the above, including what is affordable and what is pie in the sky, the Portuguese Queiroz is in my view the best candidate. He would be hard to sell, if compared to a Venables. But he would be a lot cheaper and, surely, he would not lose our most crucial tie from 2-0 with 18 minutes to go.

In any case, my view is to appoint none of the above as national coach but to appoint a director to oversee a new coaching structure and to whom the national coach, a local man, would be answerable.

In the meantime, and until and unless that happens, we will be happy to keep you and Soccer Australia informed of the list of best available candidates. After all, if we are not to have a national coach, why shouldn't we at least allow ourselves to fantasise.

WITH REBECCA

Each week I subject an Ericsson Cup player to a quick chat, designed to find out about the player and the man behind the public persona.

Gippsland Falcons have at the heart of their defence an international who is one of the reasons why the club has made such a good start to the year (I am writing this before the Sydney Olympic game last weekend, so I hope I have not put the hex on the Gippy lads!).

Soccer Weekly, would you please welcome to 'With Rebecca' my favourite Falcon (sounds like a good name for a TV show!), the Welsh strongman with a soft heart, Mr Jeff 'Tom Jones' Hopkins.....

1: Jeff, welcome to our league, I know this is early days, but what have been your first impressions of the league, in comparison to, say Asia and England.

"I've been impressed with the overall standard of the league. It is played at a good pace and and every team seems to have a few individual players who can cause problems."

2: How has your wife and two kids settled in to the Latrobe Valley? Is it a nice area?

"They have settled in very well to the area and have made lots of new friends. It is a beautiful area with lots to do and the people have been very helpful and friendly."

3: In a word describe coach Munro.

"Professional"

4: In a word describe yourself.

"Reliable"

5: In a word describe Archie Thompson.

"Exciting"

6: Who do you think could end up in the top six this season in Australia?

"Falcons, Perth, South Melbourne, Marconi, Olympic and Northern Spirit, but what do I know!"

7: Who do you think can win the English Premier league?

"Man Utd, Arsenal or Chelsea".

8: What was your best memory playing for the Welsh national team?

"Playing against Brazil in only my second game for Wales. It was 1-1. Also, I turned up for a game after being dropped and ending up playing because one of the lads had food poisoning."

9: On to Jeff Hopkins the man, what do you like doing outside of football? Where will you be in ten years time and what will you be doing?

"Spending time with the family, play golf (my wife and kids play). I don't know where I will be but I intend to be involved in soccer coaching or management."

10: Favourite movie, music group, food and holiday destination?

"Schindlers List, Oasis, Seafood Pasta, Florida.

11: Claudio Canosa once said that his best asset was his eyes! What is your best feature and why?

"My bushy eyebrows, they cover all the scars above my eyes!"

12: Do you have that traditional Welsh trait of liking to sing? If so, favourite song to sing and are you a Tom Jones fan?

"I love to sing in the shower. My fav songs are: Delilah, It's Not Unusual. I own Tom Jones' Greatest Hits".

13: How do you think your wife would describe you?

"Untidy"

14: Do you ever hanker for the Green Green Grass of Home? Where do you hail from in Wales?

"Yes I love to go home whenever I can — shame about the weather. I was born in Swansea."

15: Complete this sentence. Love is.....

"My family"

Thanks Jeff, and I look forward to seeing you play in Sydney.

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Australian Features

FALCONS' STUART MUNRO WITH THE FOUR DIEGOS

Please welcome our first guest of the week. One of the most impressive coaches in the Ericsson Cup. Although lacking experience in the coaching ranks, he brings with him a wealth of experience on the international playing field, having had a decorated stint with one of the biggest and best supported clubs in the world — Glasgow Rangers.

Please a big Four Diegos welcome to Gippsland Falcons coach, Stuart Munro.

Diegos: **"Congratulations on Gippy's excellent start to the season. You've built a team that can not only scratch and scrag, but also at times, play an entertaining brand of soccer.**

What has been harder, being a rookie coach or having to adapt to country life ?"

Munro: "The country lifestyle has been the easy part. I actually found it more difficult living in Sydney last year. I'm not really a city person so I'm finding it very pleasant down in the Gippsland countryside."

Diegos: **"You spent last year playing under another rookie coach, David Mitchell at Sydney United. The Four Diegos reckon he did a magnificent job at the club with limited resources. Other than developing a real hate for opposition goalkeepers, did you learn anything about being a first time coach under 'Big Mitch'?"**

Munro: "Definitely. 'Mitch' is a great friend of mine. He was the reason I went to Sydney in the first place. I thought what he actually achieved last season under very difficult circumstances, was incredible. He is a very knowledgeable coach.

As far as goalkeepers are concerned, David's approach on the field is their problem. I think David has still got the ability to be one of the best and most feared strikers in the Ericsson Cup, if he can remain fit. I learned a few things from Dave and I think he learned a few things from me. We worked quite closely last year and he gave me a little of the coaching responsibility. It all seem to work quite well."

Diegos: **"It's a long road trip to Gippy for opposing teams. To be honest, there are a number of players in the Ericsson Cup who absolutely hate the trip. We want to know, whatever happened to 'Good Old Fashion Country Hospitality' and why do you think opposition teams detest the trip down to Gippy?"**

Munro: "Funnily enough, when I was at Sydney United last season, and we arrived here to play, it was a beautiful evening. The pitch was looking lovely. I thought what is all this complaining about? I think what a lot of people forget is that the Falcons have to travel every second week. Everyone else has to come to Gippsland just once a year. For our trip to Newcastle just recently for example, we had to leave at 5.00 am in the morning to drive two and half hours to Melbourne Airport. Then we had to take the flight from Melbourne to Sydney, then drive another two hours from Sydney to Newcastle. We had to get out of our beds in the afternoon and play a game at night, all in the space of one day. So if there's a little hardship for opposing teams, you can guarantee that we will use it to our advantage. I think you'll find that the hospitality after the game is always pretty good down here at Gippy though."

Diegos: **"You are a veteran of perhaps, the most frenetic derby in world soccer - The Old Firm derby between Glasgow Rangers and Glasgow Celtic. That must have been close to the pinnacle of your career. What can you pass on to the younger players at Gippy from experiences like that?"**

Munro: "Most of the younger players in Australia want to get to that level and play in that type of arena, in the big local derbies, in front of 80,000 to 90,000 people every week. I always found it a different experience every time. It was something I never really got used to, but it was always an occasion I enjoyed taking part in. Itís the type of game were very little communication took place on the field with your teammates because of the noise from the terraces. You basically had to concentrate on the game all the time. Its that type of highlight in my career that I try and pass on to the younger players down here at the Falcons. These-players are good enough to reach that level, but whether they are hungry enough to do so is another matter."

Diegos: **"Recently media reports have suggested that Socceroo, Mark Viduka is about to join Glasgow Celtic in the Scottish Premier league for $8 million.**

Is there any advice you can give Mark about cooking haggis, pouring Guinness, the type of kilt he should wear and playing soccer in Scotland?"

Munro: "He should take a very, very warm kilt. One that you can wear from the top of your head to the bottom of your feet. He is going at a time when its starting to turn really, really icy cold.

Other than that, I think he will enjoy it there. The professionalism in the Scottish game is now at a high level. Most of the teams have star players from all over Europe, so he probably won't find it that difficult to settle in.

The one thing he may find hard to get used to, is that he'll never find an easy game. People keep saying its really just about Rangers and Celtic, and when it comes to winning the honours that is probably the case, but you still have to front up to the Kilmarnocks, Motherwells and the Dundees every week and these are seldom easy games to play. He'll find this aspect of the Scottish game very tough to adapt to."

Diegos: **"We notice that on the bench with you every week is your right hand man**

(bodyguard/minder call him what you like !), former uncompromising hard man defender, Claudio 'The Argentinian Claw' Canosa.

Have you allowed Claudio to pass on some of his take no prisoners, South American defensive tactics to the young Gippy Falcon defenders?"

Munro: "Yeh, Claudio does try to educate the young boys. Sometimes quite loudly. On the Falcon's bench everyone wears ear plugs when Claudio's around. His got a great enthusiasm and knowledge for the Australian game. He has been invaluable to myself as far as recruiting around Australia and in the local Victorian Premier league is concerned. He is still a very fit man and very much, part of the squad. He will be available to play if selected."

Diegos: **"Tell us a little about your young gun striker, Archie Thompson. His got a groovy hairstyle and has a real feel for the game.**

How good can he get?"

Munro: "I've been really impressed with Archie since I took over here at the Falcons. I knew last year that he was used primarily as an impact player, coming off the bench. When I spoke to him during the off season, I told him that I wanted him to be one of my star players. I basically put the onus back on him to prove to me that he is good enough to be worthy of a place for 90 minutes every week. To be fair, at this point in time, I certainly can't complain. Its really pleasing at present to see that he is prepared to put in the hard yards to try and be successful. I definitely think he has the ability to go all the way, but it is in his own hands."

Diegos: **"Thanks Stuart ...May your homemade Haggis taste great this year mate, Ole !... Adios Amigo !"**

Munro: "Thanks Diegos. I'll send you some. Ole Amigos !"

'The Four Diegos' are radio celebrities and soccer scribes from Melbourne who love the Aussie game.

Until next time Adios Amigos !

ERICSSON CUP PLAYER STORY... SCOTT BAILLIE

with Aidan Ormond

If you want the archetypical Aussie boy to promote the league, talk to Sydney Olympic's Scott Baillie. The defender's story is the tale of a battler who had a dream of playing football at the highest level. Scott takes up the story.

"I left Newcastle for Sydney when I was 18 in 1988. I wanted to play Soccer, but I also, of course, needed money.

"I began playing in the Super League while getting some outdoor work roofing, but my fair skin meant I got burned too much! I then joined the bank and have been there ever since.

"I did pretty well at Super League level, winning just about everything you could, the Bankstown team in 93/94 also had Anthony Surjan in it and we were both offered spots at Wolves, but I had some problems teaming up with Ratcliffe at Wollongong. Of course I ended up at Olympic three years ago with David Ratcliffe coaching.

"I am coming up to my ten years with the bank now, and I am now hopefully looking at playing professionally with my club Sydney Olympic.

"Obviously with family in Newcastle (his daughter Stacey lives with her Mum there) it would be nice for them if I played closer to them, but there is a great spirit among the players this year at Olympic. We quite often get together in a cafe for coffee or a game of pool and once I get my fitness right (he missed some of pre-season with a knee injury and asthma problems) I should be ready for a real contribution.

"I think the camaraderie is important when you play football. I love playing with my mates. However I did go overseas about a year ago. I actually went for a holiday to America and Holland, but my agent got me trials with clubs in England, and it almost got me a contract with Southend. The press over there were actually doing stories about me.

"Some players actually tried, and meant to, intimidate me with some bad tackles. I took it in my stride however. I also played three games for Millwall, once against Portsmouth and Crystal Palace. I've been getting up a five in the morning to get to work, then I go to training, so the prospect of playing professional football really appeals."

"When I came back in 1997 I was still with Olympic, under then coach Geoff Harcombe, obviously it was not a great year, in fact I did something not many seniors would do, I drove to Canberra and played for the Colts when I was dropped. Player morale was down that year.

"When John Sentas took over as coach later in the season, he played the strongest side and suddenly everything changed and we played great football and almost made the finals. If only we had that line-up from the start."

"I am 28 so I think, as a defender, I have the best days ahead of me although defenders rarely get the accolades that strikers do!

"But Stacey, who is only seven, still thinks I am the best, she just loves coming to Olympic and watching us play."

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OLYROO SQUAD

The Olyroos will take on the Chinese Under-23 team over two dates: Wednesday November 25 at the Marconi Stadium in Sydney, and Friday November 27 at Brandon Park in Wollongong.

The 18-man squad is as follows:

Name	Team
Tansel Baser	South Melbourne
Marco Bresciano	Carlton
Jacob Burns	Sydney United
Simon Colosimo	Carlton
Jason Culina	Sydney Olympic
Michael Curcija	South Melbourne
Joe Didulica	South Melbourne
Joe Didulica	Melbourne Knights
Brett Emerton	Sydney Olympic
Hayden Foxe	Hiroshima Sanfrecce
Michael Garcia	Perth Glory
Carlos Gonzalez	Sydney Olympic
Danny Milosevic	Perth Glory
Kosta Salapasidis	Wollongong Wolves
Sebastian Sinozic	Wollongong Wolves
Zeljko Susa	Melbourne Knights
Andy Vargas	Gippsland
Kasey Wehrman	Brisbane Strikers
Ivan Zelic	Canberra Cosmos

Standbys:

Nick Carle	Sydney Olympic
Dragi Nastevski	Melbourne Knights
Noel Spencer	Wollongong Wolves
Nathan Wild	Adelaide Sharks

The squad will assemble in Sydney Monday 23rd after Round 7 Ericsson Cup commitments have been met, and will be released the morning of Saturday 28th November 1998.

The Chinese Under-23 squad will fly into Sydney the evening of Saturday November 21, 1998.

Australian Features

ALAGICH COACHING

No 4 of a series by specialist coach Richard Alagich

The third phase of development
tactical phase Levels 4,5 and 6: 13 to 17+ yrs

Third third phase of development is represented by an increase in the tactical and physical demands on the player.

Tactics is the art by which the player's technical and physical qualities are used to achieve the best possible result.

Having established, in the second phase of development, a solid technical basis, the coach is now able to progress on to the more complex exercises of combining the technical knowledge in given specific match situations.

With coaching tactics, as with techniques, it is important to ensure that there is a gradual progression and move from the central (basic) to the peripheral (complex) elements. In other words progressing from the simple to more difficult exercises.

The coaching of tactics is represented by three stages:

1. individual tactics
2. group tactics
3. team tactics

The gradual progression in coaching tactics is as follows:

1. player without the ball-without pressure
2. player with the ball-without pressure
3. player with the ball-token pressure
4. player with the ball-full pressure

All exercises given are situational, that is, situations that the player is going to experience in the game.

In the third phase of development the objectives differ from the objectives in the second phase.

Coaches during this phase of development should primarily be concerned with:

To achieve this it is important to arrange cultural / social activities.

1. Increasing the general and specific physical development of the player.
2. The technical improvement of the player moving with or without the ball; teaching the fine technical points combined with speed and explosive player movement.
3. The tactical improvement of the player, group and team.
4. Flexibility in relation to the player specialising in a particular position.
5. Forming a positive relationship without the group.

These activities will further improve the harmony within the squad and at the same time allow the coach to reach a better understanding of his players. Such activities could include dinners, picnics, film nights, trips, soccer camps etc.

In the third phase of development emphasis is placed on the tactical and physical development with technical reinforcement.

In my next article I will expand on the question of the structure of a practical coaching session.

THE FOUR DIEGOS WITH THE PANEL'S SANTO CILAURO

Our Guest of the week this week is a man who is well known for his entertaining performances in the ABC's Frontline program, The Castle, and each week on Channel 10's The Panel.

He also loves his soccer.

Please a big Four Diego welcome to TV celebrity and soccer enthusiast — Santo Cilauro.

Diegos: **"It is a great pleasure speaking to someone who has rubbed shoulders with a great fan of the Four Diegos — Kylie Minogue. Did she mention us to you at all?"**

Cilauro: "I can't say that I ever rubbed shoulders with her but I did come within three feet at one stage. She couldn't stop talking about you guys though, obviously she must be a big fan."

Diegos: **"This year we saw another magnificent World Cup in France, with SBS TV providing some memorable moments of drama packed TV. Who could ever forget Tracey Holmes threatening to give Les Murray a squirrel grip? But another great moment for us, was when your show 'The Panel', crossed live via satellite for your World Cup report, and all we saw was an empty chair.**

Can you tell us why you missed the interview?"

Cilauro: "I had been down to Marseille to see a quarter-final and a semi-final involving Holland, Argentina and Brazil. The guys on 'The Panel' said that they would like to do a cross to Paris with me on that same day. So I decided to catch the French version of 'The Very Fast Train', so that I could get back to Paris in time for the interview. I don't know whether you Diegos have ever been on a 'Very Fast Train'?"

Diegos: **"The 10.45 am St Albans train from Flinders Street here in Melbourne, at times can pick up a bit of pace, especially when we're going down hill."**

Cilauro: "I've heard that Puffing Billy can also pick up some speed on a good day, but that's another story, let's get back to France. We were traveling quite nicely until the train started picking up speed and then slowing down. I thought that this was a bit weird for such a high tech train so I approached the train conductor and asked whether there was a problem. He whispered 'Yes sir, we have encountered an obstruction'. I asked what kind of an obstruction, and he replied, 'A very little cow'.

So this caused me to be massively late for my interview in Paris. When I did eventually arrive at the studio, I asked the French TV producer whether I had missed the cross, and he said,'No, No, No, they are having a laugh at your expense', so at least the boys on 'The Panel' got some mileage out of it."

Diegos: **"Was this your first trip to a World Cup?"**

Cilauro: "Yes, it was an absolute dream come true. I can't think of anything that I've done in my life that has been as exciting. I'm such an opportunist. I talked some friends on a Melbourne radio station into paying my way in return for regular World Cup reports from France. It certainly was a dream come true."

Diegos: **"We noticed that a recently ago you plugged the Carlton V Northern Spirit game on 'The Panel'.**

How did prime time commercial TV executives cope with a rogue TV host that dared to mention soccer on Aussie TV?"

Cilauro: "Your running the gauntlet by mentioning soccer on prime time Aussie TV that's for sure. The reason I mentioned the local game is that I didn't want to be hypocritical by only showing bizarre soccer clips from England or Brazil and not ever talking about Aussie soccer. I certainly do get raised eye brows when I suggest to our sports correspondent on 'The Panel', Steve Quartermain, I'm going to mention something about the Ericsson Cup on the show.

"I think to general sports lovers in Australia, the game of soccer in this country is regarded as not being as good as the overseas product, which is a terrible perception of the game. I get sick of explaining to people that Aussie soccer has lost a great amount of talent overseas and that the local games aren't as sub standard as they think."

Diegos: **"A very popular show during the World Cup on SBS was The Fantasy Football, show, that many non-soccer followers watched religiously.**

"Will your team on the 'Working Dog Productions' ever consider doing a show like that in Australia — our production company 'The Mangy Dog Productions' certainly have!

Cilauro: "Rob Sitch (The Panel) and I have a great love for sport. We had already seen the 'Fantasy Football' show a number of times prior to the World Cup and thought that it would be great to produce a sports show along the same lines.

"The guys that are part of the 'Working Dog Productions' were very excited about the show, so much so that during the World Cup, they showed numerous excepts on 'The Panel'. It's a wonderful way of presenting any sport because you know that the people involved genuinely have a passion for the game. I think that is the secret to an interesting and entertaining television show."

Diegos: **"Santo, now it's time for The Four Diegos Heart Balm where we ask you to give us your brief inner most private thoughts on the following topics.**

"The Iranian national soccer team"

Cilauro: "I hate to sound really terrible and I know that I could be tried for treason in the Diego's High Court but I like them."

Diegos: **"Paolo Di Canio"**

Cilauro: "Paolo Di Canio is not my favourite player at present because I selected him as my striker in the Australian Premier League Fantasy Football competition and because of his run in with a ref he is out for a while. Having said that, I do like his coloured boots!"

Diegos: **"Natasha Stott Despoja"**

Cilauro: "Too many bits in her surname!"

Diegos: **"The best player in the world at this time."**

Cilauro: "Chelsea's Marcel Desailly."

Diegos: **"The biggest dud player in the world at this time."**

Cilauro: "Paolo Di Canio!"

Diegos: **"Channel Ten news reader, Sandra Sully."**

Cilauro: "I think she is cute but I want her to make the first move!"

Diegos: **"Thanks Santo Keep plugging Aussie soccer mate, Ole ! Adios Amigo!"**

Cilauro: "Thanks Diegos. Ole to you too!"

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Australian Features

THE ROCKY ROCKET!

By Glenn Davis

The Rockhampton Rocket, Jeremy Harris, is fast proving to be the one that got away from the so-called glamour Sydney club Marconi, after his spectacular start to the Ericsson Cup season.

Harris was snapped up as a 17-year-old by former Socceroo coach Frank Arok when he was at the helm of Marconi six years ago.

Arok was on a scouting mission in north Queensland at the time when Harris' speed and skills immediately caught his attention.

Harris, now 23, played eight matches with Marconi in his first season before being struck down with hernia.

After three operations and some growing up Harris has recaptured that form which impressed Arok so much.

The pacy midfielder admits he was a "bit wild" when he first went to Sydney.

"I was a bit hard to control and liked the city night life," he said.

"I look back now and regret the wasted opportunities."

However, like most young kids living away from home, disenchantment soon set in.

"There were times it was so frustrating I thought about giving the game away," he said.

"But it's changed now. I'm off the drink and watch my diet closely."

Harris puts the transition down to a phone call to former Brisbane Strikers coach Bruce Stowell who allowed him to trial with the Strikers.

Soon after Frank Farina, who is now with Marconi, took over from Stowell, which opened the door for Harris to fulfill his teenage potential.

Harris, rates his career highlight as playing for the Strikers in their historic Grand Final win in front of a capacity crowd in excess of 40,000 against Sydney United two years ago.

"I came off the bench in the last 20 minutes but it was such an incredible feeling to play in front of a big home crowd," he recalled.

"My whole time with the Strikers has been great, they're a great bunch of guys and I learned heaps under Frank.

"Now Kossie is here I'm sure I'm going to learn even more because he is a legend in Australian soccer."

John Kosmina

Harris has made a sensational to the Strikers' season already bagging three goals (before the Wolves game).

Coincidentally, all three goals were headers, a point not missed on Strikers coach John Kosmina.

"Jezza is playing very well and he's really learnt to time his runs," Kosmina said.

Harris recently said he was enjoying Kosmina's attacking style which he believed would enable the Strikers' to make the Top Six again.

"We had a lot of injuries at the start of last season which hurt us," he said.

"This year, things are going along nicely and we've been able to avoid major injuries.

"I think we've got the squad to make the top six if we can keep a good percentage of our players fit."

Harris believes the Strikers have a good blend of youth and experience.

"If Brisbane can hold on to its players for another couple of seasons we'll have a very experienced squad in the not too distant future," he concluded.

** Pic by Steve Bacak*

GOTIS' SWEET RETURN

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Manny Gotis may not be one of the superstars of the Ericsson Cup, but it's unlikely there is another player more committed to his team than the tough tackling Gippsland Falcons defender.

Gotis is a Gippsland local, making him more qualified than most to talk about the club.

He's only played for the Falcons in the Ericsson Cup for the last couple of years though.

Gotis, 29 tomorrow, has a classic story.

He has come full circle, having been at the Falcons from 1987, leaving in 1992, then returning again to the club some four years later.

Gotis was at the club (then known as Morwell Falcons), when the club were admitted to the NSL.

23 at the time, and a regular fixture in the Falcons side competing in the Victorian Premier League, Gotis expected to be a part of the side that played in the NSL.

What followed though, left him so disappointed that he switched to another football code for a couple of years.

Coach at the time, Bobby McLachlan, had told Gotis that he was not part of his plans.

"I wasn't even given a look in" said Gotis.

"I was a young player, I was a local and, having played at youth level for Victoria, I had the credentials."

Gotis, disenchanted with the game, frittered between playing for local clubs in Gippsland and playing Aussie Rules.

He played for Moe, in a competition widely regarded as one of the strongest in Victoria.

Gotis may have actually played in the AFL.

"When I was about 17, I was asked down to Footscray for the under 19s, but I knocked it back and decided to stick with soccer."

Every game that Gotis now plays for the Falcons is proving McLachlan wrong.

"I can't hide the fact that there's tension between me and Bobby.

"I think he handled the whole situation very poorly. The club supported his decision, but every club has to support its coach.

"Some people, who were at the club at that time, were the first to congratulate me when I came back but Bobby's not going to ring me up and say 'well done'.

"I'm quite satisfied that I've put egg on his face. As a coach, he lives and dies by his decisions, this one though, was wrong."

Gotis was playing with Port Melbourne Sharks under Frank Arok and he, along with a few other players, were taken by Arok to his new job, coaching Gippsland Falcons.

Before this happened, the man they call 'Harry' wondered whether he would ever get the chance to play in the NSL.

"I always knew I was good enough" he says.

"But living down in Gippsland it would have been hard to play for a Melbourne with all the travelling involved.

"It was always going to be an advantage to play for the Falcons."

It means much to Gotis that, being from Gippsland, he is playing for the local club.

"It's a great personal satisfaction, regardless of the fall-out with Bobby, but because other people in the area can look and think that if I've done it, then they can too.

"We've always known that the squad can't be filled up with locals, but the club are doing things now in youth development in the area that never used to happen."

Gotis says that the club made "a complete turnaround" under the guidance of Arok.

Arok placed a lot of influence on the development of young players, not only from the La Trobe Valley region, something which current coach Stuart Munro has continued.

It certainly seems to be working.

In the likes of Archie Thompson, Levent Osman, Andy Vargas, Clayton Bell and John Hutchinson, they have some extremely talented young players.

"We were always a club who bought players" says Gotis, "now more attention is being focussed at the youth and all of a sudden, we've got three kids involved with the Olyroos.

Manny Gotis

"We've still made signings, you've got to have the right balance of youth and experience.

"I've always said that this year will be built around our young players."

The Falcons have a bright start to the season.

"It's been very positive, the squad's come together nicely" explains the big Falcon.

"We've always been known as a good fighting team now all of a sudden we're starting to play good football as well.

"I've played for a lot of teams, none of them have had the same spirit that we have. We all get along very well.

"At some other clubs you can perceive that they don't really well but here, there's no jealousy or anything like that."

Much of this can be attributed to new coach Munro.

"Stuart has been tremendous."

"I've really been taken by him. He has come in and continued much of the work that Frank has done and has instilled a lot of belief in the players."

The Falcons, as well as getting their act together on the field, are doing the right things off it as well.

Gotis can take some credit here as well, he's the club's Development and Promotion officer.

"Gippsland has been at the crossroads in terms of stature in the league for a couple of years now.

"Now we've turned the corner both on and off the field."

*Look out for the special Soccer Weekly/Falcons promotional edition, out in December.

MANNY GOTIS Factfile

Name:	Manny Gotis
Club:	Gippsland Falcons
Date of Birth:	18/11/69
Place of Birth:	Nhill, country Victoria
Marital status:	Single, girlfriend Vicky
Occupation:	Player, Development and Promotion officer for Gippsland Falcons
Nickname:	Harry
Position:	Defender
NSL matches:	44
NSL goals:	2
Previous clubs:	Warragul, Moe United, Morwell Falcons, Traralgon Olympians, Croydon City, Port Melbourne Sharks
Honours:	Victorian youth teams
Biggest influences:	Family, coaches, Frank Arok
Favourite overseas club:	Chelsea
Favourite overseas player:	Michel Platini
Most memorable match:	Last season v Sydney Olympic, acting captain, 0-2 down at half time, scored first goal in 3-2 win.
Best goal seen:	Marco van Basten v USSR 1988 European Championship final
Favourite other sports:	Aussie Rules, Horse racing
Favourite food:	Seafood, pasta
Favourite drink:	Lemon Ruski
Favourite actor/actress:	Clint Eastwood
Favourite film:	Ghost
Favourite TV show:	All sports programs
Favourite music:	Dance

WE'RE BACK!

High-profile Super League club Canterbury Marrickville Olympic is proud to announce that they have been readmitted into the **FIRST DIVISION** of the NSW Youth League for season 1999.

The Club has further ambitions of being admitted to the **Super Youth League** in the year 2000.

We are therefore looking for experienced coaches/managers to help make the Berries' dream come true for the following prospective teams in 1999:
U/11s, U/12s, U/13s,
U/14s, U/15s, U/16s

Coaching resumes should be sent to:
THE SECRETARY
Canterbury Marrickville Olympic Soccer Club
P.O. Box 976
Marrickville NSW 1475

ALL INTERESTED PLAYERS ARE ADVISED TO WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS ABOUT SOCCER TRIALS WHICH WILL BE BEGINNING VERY, VERY SHORTLY ...

For further details please ring Laki Konistis (Soccer Administrator) on 04111.91815

Fairfield Bulls Soccer Club

NSW Super League 1999 Season U/18s & U/21s Trials

Commencing:
Tuesday 17 November & Thursday 19 November

AT: St Johns Park
EDENSOR RD — EDENSOR PARK

All sessions commence 7.00pm

ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:
Ash Harmis 0412 295 093 or Gilbert Yalda 0411 743 968

Australian Features

WESTFIELDS' BLITZ THROUGH EUROPE

By Trevor Morgan

Fresh from winning the Commonwealth Bank Cup, for the sixth year in a row, the senior Westfields team left Sydney on the 5th October on a Singapore Airliner flight bound for Manchester.

While in England the boys were guests of Leeds United Soccer Club.

Upon arrival in Manchester the touring party picked up two buses which they drove to Leeds. The first appointment was the following morning, Wednesday 7th October, at the Leeds United Training Complex at Boston Spa, about 30 minutes out of Leeds.

There the boys observed the Leeds 15s and 16s training, which included ex-Westfields student Jamie McMaster. Jamie has made a big impression in his first year, and the club is very keen to hang on to him.

Westfields then had their own training session, and soon appreciated the wonderful playing surface, which was to become a common right for the remainder of the tour.

After showering, Jamie McMaster joined the boys for a buffet lunch. There he filled everyone in on the life of an apprentice soccer player in England.

While Jamie headed off to afternoon school lessons the Westfields boys were taken to Elland Road Stadium to watch the Leeds United Reserves versus Derby County Reserves.

The boys got an unexpected extra feel for the stadium when they were all asked to the ball boys for the game.

The following day, Thursday 8th October, they were given a proper tour of the stadium, and were then let loose on the club shop. It was here that Harry Kewell's popularity became apparent. His was the face that appeared most on all the merchandising.

That night the boys played their first tour game against the Leeds United 15s and 16s squad. They had been inspired earlier in the day watching Harry and Jimmy Floyd-Hasselbaink training with the rest of the first grade squad.

The boys put in a magnificent performance, winning 5-3. Shane Cansdell-Sherriff scored in the seventh minute, picking up a rebound from a Brad Groves free-kick.

Leeds equalised in the 23rd minute off a header from a corner. At half-time the teams went in at 1-1.

In the first 15 minutes of the second half Westfields mesmerised their opponents, scoring four goals to take a 5-1 lead. The first was blasted in by Shane Cansdell-Sherriff.

The second was put away by Troy Stone. The third was a 30 metre effort from Artin Saginian. The fourth was excellently finished by striker Erick Anabalon. Leeds came back with two goals in the last 10 minutes.

The following day the boys played against the Boston Spa High School team, who dominate schoolboy soccer in the Yorkshire area.

Despite the strong wind and rain both rides put on an entertaining display, finishing 2-2.

On Saturday 10th October the party left for London, stopping on the way at Watford, to watch a First Division game between Watford and Birmingham.

The highlight for everyone was the atmosphere, which most people enjoyed more than the game, which finished 1-1. The noise and chanting will never be forgotten.

Highlights of the London leg were a tour of Wembley Stadium, and a game against Fulham Under 15s and 16s, won 3-2.

Goals for Westfields were scored by Eric Anabalon, Mathew Rosier and Peter Giurrisevich. Goalkeeper Chad Taylor saved an important penalty.

After five days in London the touring party returned to Leeds for the third phase of the tour. It was during this period that Leeds United offered three of the boys apprenticeships: midfielders Brad Groves and Shane Cansdell-Sherriff, and defender Mathew Hunter.

At this stage the boys are weighing-up the offer, but look likely to go. Leeds would like then in England early in the new year.

During his period three boys had to return to Australia to join a Joey camp: Mathew Rosier, defender Brad Groves and Shane Cansdell-Sherriff.

This made things a bit tougher for the team in its remaining matches they, lost 4-0 against Leeds 15s and 16s, and 4-2 against Ajax in Amsterdam.

Before flying to Amsterdam the boys had the pleasure of touring Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester, and Anfield Stadium in Liverpool.

For most of the boys it was the stuff that dreams are made of. Another great experience was attending the Nottingham Forest versus Leeds match at the City Ground in Nottingham. We didn't see Harry score, but the atmosphere was "to die for" they said later.

In Amsterdam they were the guests of Ajax, and used the facilities of the Ajax Junior Soccer Academy.

On the 20th October the team played Ajax 15s. Paul Rankin and Troy McColl will treasure for the rest of their lives scoring against such a legendary team.

After three days of sightseeing in Amsterdam it was a weary lot of boys who made it back to Sydney on Saturday evening 24th October.

Readers over the last few months would have noticed the name Shane Cansdell-Sherriff in our school soccer coverage, writes Aidan Ormond.

The player himself has also got himself noticed with a series of performances for his school, Westfields, and for the NSWIS that have elevated him to the national U/17s. And, surprise surprise, after getting the taste of European Football on Westfields' recent Euro tour, he now wants to cement his future with Leeds United.

Just as Harry Kewell left our shores a talented but unknown kid, Cansdell-Sherriff, 16, is also set to join Leeds at the end of the year on a four-year shcolarship.

The Campbelltown born youth (the same area as Brett Emerton) was a regular in the NSW U/14s and U/15s, describes himself as a wide left striker or centre midfielder who models his game on Shearer and Owen, yet the prospect of playing with the Socceroos, and Harry Kewell is the "ultimate" ambition.

"Playing overseas is more professional but Australia is getting better, but would consider a local offer if it was right."

So did he enjoy his Euro sojourn?

"Yes, being with my mates and playing against such great opposition was a great experience. However I had to leave the tour early because of my commitments with the national U/17s."

While the Cansdell-Sherriff story is just unfolding, one can't help but feel that this talented player — only 16 years of age — will make his name overseas before he is recognised here. Still, if he is as good as Harry Kewell, it won't matter.

Before the Leeds game. Westfields won this game 5-3. Shane Cansdell-Sherriff has been offered a four year contract with the Yorkshire club.

At the wonderful Ajax stadium.

Westfields with Ajax

FRASER PARK
SOCCER CLUB

NSW STATE LEAGUE

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7.00 – 9.00PM
TUESDAYS
17 NOV / 24 NOV / 1 DEC / 8 DEC
VENUE
FRASER PARK
100 Marrickville Rd, Marrickville

FURTHER ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT
Head Coach –
Tony Dunn 9204 2742
(ALL HOURS) OR
Roger Neto 0419 200 484
Club 9557 4130

SOCCER WOMAN

WITH JANENE MAR IN CANBERRA

ANSETT AUSTRALIA SUMMER SERIES

Round Two

STARS AND ECLIPSE SHARE POINTS AND SECOND SPOT

SOUTHERN STARS 1
(Natalie Thomas 24)
CANBERRA ECLIPSE 1
(Amy Kilpatrick 56)

Southern Stars and Canberra Eclipse shared the points in Sunday's Round Two action at Hindmarsh Stadium to finish the weekend level in second place, the Stars ahead on goal difference.

The two attack-minded sides provided another entertaining spectacle for the Adelaide supporters, picking up from where they had left off the previous day.

Canberra Eclipse were fired up to avenge their Saturday loss and pushed forward from the opening whistle, sharper and hungrier and determined to get back in the winning circle.

Sharpshooter Lisa Casagrande was causing the early headaches for the home side defence with her running game as the Eclipse dominated the opening ten minutes.

But thereafter, the Stars took control of the first half and launched their own assault on goal. Midfielder Anna Ruotolo worked well in tandem with Sharon Black and created shooting opportunities for Natalie Thomas, Kristy Moore and Black.

After 24 minutes, the Stars were rewarded with the lead. Defender Kristyn Swaffer despatched a long ball forward up the right flank for Moore to run on to. Her pinpoint cross to the far post was met on the burst by Thomas, finishing at close range with a fantastic header.

Canberra Eclipse, still well in the game with just the one-goal deficit at the break, continued the fight and were rewarded with the equaliser eleven minutes into the second half.

Lisa Casagrande almost maintained her record of scoring in every game, but her long range effort on the run thumped against the crossbar. The rebound caused a scramble in the box with the Southern defence unable to clear, and former Victorian Amy Kilpatrick pounced on the loose ball to thread her shot perfectly through the crowded goal area from twelve metres into the back of the net.

The levelling goal sparked what was already a fast-paced clash into an even more thrilling contest with the Eclipse sniffing a win, and Southern all out to regain their lead.

Canberra Eclipse in particular stepped up a gear. Angela Iannotta made several good attempts on goal, with Casagrande and Dior Foxhill also working well up front.

Stars midfielder Black continued her barrage of attempts on goal but failed to beat the keeper, and target player Moore was supplied with plenty of ball, but also could not find the target.

Likewise, each sides' defensive lines responded with a fantastic performance, determined not to concede in the pressure cooker atmosphere. Eclipse's Peita-Claire Hepperlin, Cindy Doyle and Mary Pelle held solid against Southern's strikeforce, with Stars' Swaffer, Dianne Alagich and Sharon Black spoiling a Canberra party.

The game was anybody's, but in all the excitement, neither side was able to break through for a winner, and the score remained at one apiece.

STARS THUMP HOME THE GOALS

SOUTHERN STARS 5
(Louisa Bisby 13, Kristy Moore 40, Natalie Thomas 58, 59, 85)
CANBERRA ECLIPSE 1
(Lisa Casagrande 60)

Stars' striker Natalie Thomas recorded a second half hattrick to seal a 5-1 victory over Canberra Eclipse last Saturday in Adelaide in what was an attacking game from both teams.

The final scoreline however was not a true reflection of the course of the game, in fact not as one-sided as it sounds. Southern were lethal in front of goal, but Eclipse also had an even share of the possession and much attacking play and shots of their own. The Eclipse suffered from their high injury toll, Round One knee injuries to Amy Wilson and Caitlin Munoz plus the existing injuries to defenders Traci Bartlett and Sarah Cooper leaving the Canberra resources stretched to the limit.

The visitors also had to contend with an inspired display by the Stars defence. Dianne Alagich, set back by numerous injuries over the past year or two, was making her welcome comeback and it was if she had never been away from the game. Paired with Kristyn Swaffer, the two made some good saving tackles and denied the forwards any room on the ball.

Sacha Wainwright was on fire for Canberra, forging her way with some great runs up the left flank, and Lisa Casagrande and Angela Iannotta combined well together up front.

After a disappointing first round effort, Southern Stars had come back with a vengeance, finally creating and scoring the goals previously absent. With Eclipse hoping to continue on their goalscoring ways, the match was a highly entertaining contest.

The Stars' account was opened in the 13th minute, Louisa Bisby the scorer. Midfielder Anna Ruotolo provided a high ball across the goal area which was parried by Eclipse keeper Amy Beattie. Bisby followed in with a shot from the edge of the 18-yard, the ball hitting the right post and dribbling in over the line.

Five minutes before the break, Swaffer lofted a ball over the Canberra defence from the centre of the pitch. With a perfectly timed run, Kristy Moore beat the outcoming keeper, neatly chipping the ball over her head from 15 metres.

The two sides came out firing after half-time, and the referee pulled up four fouls in the first few minutes. Canberra Eclipse were then rocked by a quickfire double from Thomas, the lead stretching to four within the blink of an eye. Ruotolo and Thomas were creating enormous pressure on the defence with their constant running and the backs failed to clear the ball. Ruotolo took advantage and slid a fantastic ball between two opponents with Thomas nailing the target from 10 metres on the run low inside the left post in the 58th minute.

In the very next minute, Rebecca Morrison received the ball on the left, knocked it past her marker and surged down the left flank before dribbling into the box and squaring to Thomas. With the keeper in two minds whether to come off her line, Thomas smashed the ball into the roof of the net.

Another minute later, Canberra finally claimed a goal of their own. A poor defensive clearance saw Casagrande pounce on the ball and draw the keeper out towards the left before cleverly knocking her shot past her into the right side of the net.

With five minutes remaining, Thomas notched up her hattrick. A defensive miskick presented the striker with a gift ball, on the spot to slot home from 12 metres past the keeper for a final scoreline of 5-1.

SINGLE GOAL WIN AGAIN TO CHAMPS

NSWIS SAPPHIRES 1
(Tracey Thomas 4m)
NORTHERN NSW HORIZON ...0

NSWIS Sapphires shot to a five point lead at the top of the ladder after taking maximum points for the weekend, on Sunday repeating their effort of the previous day with a 1-0 win in another tight affair over Northern NSW Horizon at Sydney's St George Stadium.

Sapphires made the perfect start, taking the lead within the first four minutes, and the home supporters felt they would perhaps be treated to several goals after just the one was scored the previous day. A Joanne Peters corner from the right was met perfectly by the head of defender Tracey Thomas, completely unchallenged to send the ball flying into the back of the net from thirteen metres at the near post.

The home team enjoyed all the possession for the next twenty minutes, but constantly resorted to long range strikes on goal which were either happily gathered in by goalkeeper Rebecca Perrett or sailed wide of the target. Peters worked tirelessly in midfield, spreading the ball around well as well as getting back in defence. The Sapphires came closest to scoring a second in the 24th minute, a Peters strike from the edge of the box blocked by a defender and the deflection flying towards goal. Forward Michelle Carney tried to get within reach, but Perrett came off her line and threw herself at Carney's feet to smother the ball.

Matildas Cheryl Salisbury and Sunni Hughes then started to work together to create something in attack for Northern Horizon. Hughes was unlucky not to finish off a Salisbury cross deep to the far post, her first-time strike sent over the top. Northern held much of the possession approaching half-time, but had trouble breaking down an impervious Sapphires defence.

Eleven minutes after the break, NSW's Kelly Golebiowski almost created a second goal, shooting from ten metres wide on the left, and Perrett just managing to get her glove down on top of the ball to prevent it going over the line. Carney was on the spot to poke the ball into the net, but the challenge was deemed to be a foul and the goal disallowed.

Soon after, Horizon's Jodie Randall had two good chances within a minute to equalise. Her direct freekick from just outside the 18-yard was inches too high, and her shot from wide on the left went wide of the far post. At the other end, four more shots on goal caused little trouble for keeper Perrett.

Horizon's Salisbury missed with two good opportunities, one a first-time strike and the other a header both agonisingly wide. Hughes almost snatched the late equaliser in the final two minutes, but her strike from wide on the left curled wide of the far post.

Sapphires: Kell, Tann-Darby, Starr, Thomas, Clarke, Garriock, Peters, Murray, Cavanagh (Hewson 80), Golebiowski, Carney.

Horizon: Perrett, Powell, Alley, McGovern, Diamond (Oldham 28) (Neilson 83), Randall, Salisbury, Fitzgerald, Nutley, King (Palozzi 46), Hughes.

Natalie Thomas (right) and Cheryl Salisbury. The Matildas were on opposite sides on the weekend in Sydney.

SAPPHIRES THROUGH IN TIGHT TUSSLE

NSWIS SAPPHIRES 1
(Anissa Tann-Darby 56)
NORTHERN NSW HORIZON ...0

NSWIS Sapphires maintained their unbeaten record with a tight 1-0 victory over rivals Northern NSW Horizon on Saturday.

In a game which failed to reach any great heights, the Sapphires were the dominant team but only managed to put one goal away against Northern who could also have snatched an equaliser.

The clash started as an even contest fought out in midfield, each sounding out the other and neither taking control or pushing forward. Finally the first shot of the game was a long range attempt from Sapphires' Heather Garriock after a full eighteen minutes play.

Horizon's Cheryl Salisbury decided to have a crack in the 24th minute, lining up from 30 metres with a first-time blast which rocked the crossbar. Two minutes later, Sapphires' Kelly Golebiowski beat one defender before slipping the ball short for striker Michelle Carney.

Northern came in for the challenge before the ball fell loose for Carney to strike from nine metres but the ball was cleared off the line.

Julie Murray controlled the midfield and Carney worked hard up front but along with Peter and Garriock, the shots went wide of the target.

In the 37th minute, Salisbury made a fantastic attempt on the turn for Horizon from long range but the ball sailed just over. At the other end, Northern's defence held firm, blocking a couple of more shots from the home side to go in at the break nil-all.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 56th minute, defender Anissa Tann-Darby trying her luck with a direct freekick from 21 metres out on the left. Assisted by the wind, the shot deceived the keeper, swerving back inside the near post to give the Sapphires the lead.

Julie Murray almost added to the score, her first-time long range strike floating towards goal and hitting the crossbar. Neither side created any further opportunities in the final twenty minutes, giving the home side the three points.

Sapphires: Kell, Tann-Darby, Starr, Thomas, Clarke, Garriock, Peters (Hewson 69), Murray, Cavanagh, Golebiowski, Carney.

Horizon: Perrett, Powell, Alley, McGovern, Diamond, Randall, Salisbury, Fitzgerald (King 81), Crawford (Palozzi 31), Oldham, Hughes.

MANLY WARRINGAH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE
Division 1
(Under 19s and All Age)
Manly Warringah Dolphins
Trials will commence on
Wednesday 2nd December 1998
at
GRIFFITHS PARK
Anzac Avenue, Collaroy
6.30pm Sharp

Enquiries:
Michael Beckett (Coach) (H) 9982 1814
Rhonda Ferguson (H) 9984 0500

ERICSSON CUP

RESULTS ROUND 6

Marconi Fairfield	1
Adelaide Sharks	0
Melbourne Knights	0
Sydney United	1
Sydney Olympic	0
Gippsland Falcons	0
Perth Glory	2
South Melbourne	1
Carlton SC	3
Canberra Cosmos	0
Wollongong Wolves	1
Brisbane Strikers	1
Adelaide City	2
Northern Spirit	0

NEXT ROUND

Friday 20th November
Newcastle v Marconi
Breakers Stadium
Saturday 21st November
Brisbane v Adelaide City
Suncorp Stadium
Sunday 22nd November
South Melbourne v Carlton
Bob Jane Stadium
Gippsland v Perth Glory
Mobil Park
Adelaide Sharks v Sydney Olympic
Hindmarsh Stadium
Sydney United v Wollongong
Edensor Park
Melbourne Knights v Canberra
Knights Stadium
Bye: Northern Spirit

Please note, these fixtures are supplied by Soccer Australia, and are correct at time of printing. Please check local guides in case of changes. We accept no responsibility for any late changes to fixtures, or incorrect information supplied to us.

SOCCER WEEKLY'S TEAM OF THE WEEK: ROUND 6

Pogliacomi (Wolves)

Ivanovich (Zebras)

Kupresak (Pumas) Wilkinson (Glory)

Hassell (Zebras) Susa (Knights) Maloney (Marconi) Marusic (Spirit)

McDonald (Marconi)

Harper (Strikers) Tricarico (Carlton)

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Perth Glory	6	5	1	0	15	5	16
Marconi Fairfield	6	4	1	1	15	7	13
Sydney Olympic	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
South Melbourne	6	3	1	2	12	10	10
Sydney United	6	3	1	2	9	8	10
Carlton	6	3	0	3	13	6	9
Northern Spirit	6	3	0	3	5	8	9
Gippsland Falcons	5	2	2	1	4	3	8
Brisbane Strikers	6	2	2	2	10	10	8
Adelaide City	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
Adelaide Sharks	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Wollongong Wolves	5	1	2	2	4	8	5
Newcastle Breakers	5	1	1	3	5	9	4
Melbourne Knights	5	1	0	4	5	10	3
Canberra Cosmos	6	0	0	6	4	20	0

1998/99

ERICSSON CUP

ERICSSON CUP

WEEK 6
14-15 NOVEMBER
1998

MACCA PUTS THE BITE ON SHARKS

MARCONI FAIRFIELD 4
Awaritefe 27, Maloney 46, McDonald 64, Trajanovski 90
ADELAIDE SHARKS 0
At Marconi Stadium, Sydney

By John Vrtaric

The Marconi machine fine-tuned its motor for the game against the Adelaide Sharks and came away with a comprehensive 4-0 victory.

Darren McDonald, after having been left out of the team, for the first few games of the season, was the dominant player on the field and capped off his performance with his first goal in the national league.

Marconi made one forced change from last week's team with Vlado Zoric coming playing in place of the luckless Mike Smith who injured himself at training the previous day.

Brendan Renaud switched back to his usual position of left back to cover for Smith with Zoric covering for Renaud in the midfield.

The first twenty minutes of the half was end-to-end action with the first scoring opportunity falling to Adelaide in the 6th minute.

A strong run through the midfield by Richie Alagich ended with the midfielder shooting from 20 metres. The shot was miss directed and strayed into the path of young Danny Vidakovich whose first time stab was well blocked by the Marconi 'keeper, Ante Covic.

The 16th minute saw a controversial decision that may have proved decisive in the end result. A well distributed ball from Milosevic to the lanky Alex Duric on the left resulted in a low cross towards the near post where a Vidakovich miss-kick saw the ball end up at the feet of Derek Poimer, who easily stroked the ball into the back of the net.

But the linesman ruled that he was offside and the goal was disallowed.

The breakthrough came in the 27th minute when a clearance by the Adelaide defence fell to the feet of Renaud. His left foot sent the ball back towards the Adelaide goalmouth where Francis Awaritefe was unmarked.

A glancing header from the striker was well saved by Miller but the ball fell just inside the bye-line and the alert Maloney reached it first and whipped it back across the goal.

The ball eluded a despairing dive by Miller and reached Awaritefe with acres of space and time to put the ball into the Adelaide goal.

The quality of the game deteriorated after the goal with the major highlight being an unlikely duet between the Babic boys.

The taller Babic(Mark) strolled through the middle of the park as Adelaide's defence parted like the Red Sea. His majestic run brought him to the edge of the penalty area where he delivered a neat pass to the shorter Babic(Sean).

The taller Babic wasn't satisfied with his forceful run as he continued forward looking for a return ball from his namesake, who obliged with a delicate back heel.

Unfortunately, the ball was hit with too much force and just out of reach of the defender to cruelly end the great surge of the taller Babic.

Adelaide coach, Manfred Schaefer, was displeased with this team's effort and made two substitutions for the second half. Corey Artone replaced the captain, Branko Milosevic, and Frank Tibaldi came on for flanker Alex Castro.

The replacements didn't have time to acclimatise as the first minute of the second half put the game beyond Adelaide.

Another deep cross from Kim landed on the head of Sean Babic. His neatly glanced header was perfectly timed for the deep run of Maloney who was required to dive low to head ball past Miller for a 2-0 lead to Marconi.

Kim was given a scoring opportunity in the 53rd minute when a clearance rolled out just outside of the penalty box but his shot, although well struck, caused no concern to Miller as it flew just over the bar.

Two minutes later an unfortunate incident between McDonald and the Adelaide striker, Derek Poimer, resulted in a deep cut for Poimer.

An aerial clash between the two saw Poimer on the wrong end of an elbow in what seemed to be purely an accidental collision.

Poimer didn't see it that way and was an angry young man as he was led away with blood streaming down the left side of his face.

McDonald's first entry in the goal scoring statistics occurred in the 64th minute. Bringing the ball up from the midfield McDonald played the ball to Sean Babic and continued running forward as the Adelaide defence appealed unsuccessfully for offside.

Babic returned the ball to McDonald inside the penalty area and his powerful strike beat Miller on the near post.

Further chances came Marconi's way in the 71st and 76th minute. The first opportunity fell to Maloney after a pass from Kim — Maloney took the ball inside Con Kokkinoplitis but his left foot strike rolled past the 'keeper's right hand post after a deflection of Kokkinoplitis' boot.

The second chance eventuated from a move between Maloney and Babic with the latter crossing the ball to Maloney whose first time shot hits his team mate, substitute Joe Bruni, who was unable to steer the ball past Miller.

The last goal, scored four minutes into injury time, involved a move on the right between Kim, Babic and Trajanovski.

After receiving the ball from Kim, Trajanovski stroked the ball to the feet of Sean Babic who attempted to go past Paul Souris but the action resulted in Souris knocking the ball into the path of Trajanovski who calmly chiped the ball past Miller for the final scoreline of 4-0.

Marconi's midfield dominated the match after the first twenty minutes with man of the match McDonald and Maloney particularly impressive. Renaud provided some excellent crosses as well as defending well and Sean Babic's speed was a constant menace to his opponents.

Adelaide was best served by Milosevic in the first half and Richie Alagich worked tirelessly in both attack and defence.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 5,127

Referee: Simon Micallef

Marconi: Covic, Kim, Babic, Longo, Renaud, Phillips, Maloney(Trajanovski 81), McDonald, Zoric (Care 77), Babic, Awaritefe (Bruni 73)

Adelaide Sharks: Miller, Souris, Kuzmanovic, Kokkinoplitis, Castro (Tibaldi 46), Alagich, Gibson, Milosevic (Artone 46), Duric, Poimer (Pezos 55), Vidakovich

Yellows
Marconi: Care 83
Adelaide: Kuzmanovic 90

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: McDonald (Marconi)
2: Maloney (Marconi)
1: Renaud (Marconi)

GRIFFITHS SEALS KNIGHTS' FATE

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 0
SYDNEY UNITED 1
Griffiths 24
At Knights Stadium, Melbourne

By Dwyght Tuffnell

Melbourne Knights stayed at the wrong end of the table, losing their fourth game of the season, this time to Sydney United at Knights Stadium on Sunday.

A single goal, scored in the 24th minute by Joel Griffiths, was enough for United to take the three points.

"It was a tough game for us" said a happy United coach David Mitchell afterwards.

"When we got 1-0 up they had to throw a lot at us, they had one or two chances there but we had a few ourselves in the first half.

"I'm pleased with the win it puts us up there, no one really expected to us to up there."

Buoyant after their first win of the season over Brisbane Strikers last week, the Knights were quickly brought back down to earth with a disappointing performance in front of equally disappointing crowd of just 3,500.

United had the opportunities in the first half to go in at half time comfortable leaders, but they couldn't build on Griffiths' solitary goal.

It was a completely different story in the second period, the Knights enjoyed the greater share of possession, but lacked the finishing touch and, in truth, never seriously tested United goalkeeper Andrew Crews.

Griffiths will probably never score an easier goal than the one he did, but the build-up to it was something quite special.

Walter Ardone played a corner kick to Richard Plesa who, from ten metres outside the penalty area, headed the ball in to where Joe Vrkic was able to flick the ball on.

Vrkic's header came back off the underside of the crossbar and, with Knights 'keeper Joe Didulica beaten, Griffiths could not miss from point blank range.

The visitors had other chances but some breakdown of forward movement, combined with some sturdy Knights defence, kept the score down to one.

The Knights looked sharper in the second half but, when presented with a scoring chance, they were just not ruthless enough.

Ice Kutlesovski, almost unsighted in the first half, made way for Ivan Kelic and he, combined with Harry Karl, were a bit more of a handful for a United defence that swept up anything that came their way.

Karl had probably their best chance in the 58th minute when his diving header went just wide from substitute Ivan Jolic's cross.

Karl was involved again shortly after and should have layed the ball of to team mate once he beat two United defenders but instead shot straight into Plesa.

Kelic then shot just wide of the post in the 65th minute after being set up by Zeljko Susa.

The Knights were getting forward enough times but just lacked the final pass and were reduced to shooting from outside the area.

Susa found himself in a scoring position on a couple of occasions but his efforts were comfortably dealt with by Crews.

Whilst Mitchell was pleased with his team's performance, the same couldn't be said for Knights coach Vid Horvat.

"I'm very disappointed" said Horvat, "this is not what we want."

"We just get any continuity in our line-up. Every week we are playing with a new team.

"In the second half, we were much better, we dominated, but we still end up losing.

"It's another lesson for us. Tomorrow is another day" concluded Horvat.

Back in Sydney, and United's hero, 19 year old Joel Griffiths, was very happy to have won the game for the Pumas, with what was the former Sutherland junior's second goal at senior level.

Joey Didulica... back in goal for the Knights against the Pumas on Sunday. Pic by Roy Hay.

"Yeah, it is much harder of course than playing at youth level, but Mile Sterjovski is great to play upfront with.

"Mind you, that pitch was shocking. We were trying to play the ball to feet but it was bobbling everywhere, it really was a defender's game down there," said the youngster who is filling in admirably for player-coach David Mitchell.

As for this week's game against Wollongong at Edensor Park, Griffiths admitted he was looking forward to it, stating that the Wolves are "still as strong as last year".

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: Approx. 3,500

Referee: Gerry Connolly

Knights: Joe Didulica, Nastevski (Jolic 46), Vojtek, Kovacevic, Banini, Vukadin, Sevin, Trupkovic (Deak 46), Susa, Karl, Kutlesovski (Kelic 46).

United: Crews, Barrett, Kupresak, Plesa, Vrkic, Bennett, Burns, Ardone, Berry, Sterjovski (Townsend 90), Griffiths (Caleta 63).

Yellows:
Knights: Deak (69)
United: Vrkic (88)

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Susa (MK)
2: Kupresak (SU)
1: Burns (SU)

ERICSSON CUP

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FALCONS IMPRESS ONCE AGAIN

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0
At Belmore Sports Ground, Sydney

By John Economos

Gippsland Falcons flew into Belmore Oval Sunday night and through a display of sheer discipline plus an extremely well organised strategy, defiantly held Sydney Olympic to a scoreless draw to yet again collect another valuable league point.

Playing a 3-5-2 formation, Munro has welded a side that opposing teams are now finding enormous difficult to break down and must be respected.

"Tonight I had out there at least six players that are aged 18, 19, and 20," the phlegmatic Scot stated.

Had it not been for two brilliant saves by Olympic's goalkeeper Jimmy Kourtis in the last two minutes of the match, the Falcons could have flown back to Victoria with all three points.

Two minutes from fulltime Falcons' John Hutchinson busted clear down the left flank, rounded his defender on the byei-line to cut back a lovely ball to substitute Peter Di Ioro. But although Di Ioro from centre-box belted his drive on target, Kourtis made a fabulous save to get Olympic off the hook.

Willie Hastie confidently danced through Olympic's confused defence to get into the box. But Hastie's blast which was on target was deflected by an outstretched Kourtis.

The lustreless display by Olympic stemmed almost entirely from their disjointed, and many times selfish, midfield which failed to effectively win possession and to supply quality service to their twin marksmen Pablo Cardozo and Norman Tome.

In contrast the Falcons effectively hammered down their respective flanks through experienced Brian MacNicol on the right, and 'Man Of The Match', the hard working John Hutchinson on the opposite line.

Falcon midfielders Hastie, Clayton Bell and Andy Vargas got through a ton of work in centre pitch whilst central markers Jeff Hopkins and Manny Gotis patrolled with efficiency their twin Olympic strikers.

A bullet Marko Perinovic header from the back post in the fourth minute from a Hutchinson cross not only skimmed the horizontal but rattled Olympic's stunned defence.

Only Olympic's sweeper Ante Juric and left back Elias Augerinos showed any resilience against their Victorian foe. In fact it was Juric in the 29th minute that ventured forward to test goalkeeper Bojo Jevdjevic, but was denied from close range by the 'gloveman'.

The Falcons' tough targetman Perinovic continued to terrorise the Olympic defence and in the 33th minute fired in another bullet header, this time from the left, that ricochetted off the top of the crossbar.

Another Juric shot in the 64th minute and on target, was well cleared off the line by Falcons' alert and covering Vargas, whilst 13 minutes later at the other end Kourtis finger-tipped over the top a well directed MacNicol header.

Best performers for Olympic were sweeper Juric, 'keeper Kourtis and Augerinos, whilst for the Falcons top displays were put in by Hutchinson, Perinovic, Macnicol, Hopkins and Gotis.

Stuart Munro stated: "We can entertain and you saw late in the match end to end action and excitement in the penalty box. We took the game in the end to them and in fact could have won. We didn't come here to just defend and get a draw.

Branko Culina later lamented: "We just have to work much harder as some of our key players are just not playing to their full potential.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 4,800

Referee: G. Leverton

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Kourtis: Tsekenis, Juric, Ciantar, Augerinos (Gonzales 71st): Emerton, Thomas, Poric, Culina: Cardozo (Carle 82), Tome.

GIPPSLAND FALCONS: Jevdjevic: Hopkins, Osman, Gotis: MacNicol, Bell, Hastie, Vargas (Byrne 86th), Hutchinson: Thompson (Di Ioro 80th), Perinovic.

Votes for Player of the Year

3. Hutchinson (Falcons)
2. Perinovic (Falcons)
1. Macnicol (Falcons)

GUTSY GLORY HANG ON FOR WIN

PERTH GLORY 2
S Miller 45, V Kalogeracos 55
SOUTH MELBOURNE 1
M Curcija 1
At Perth Oval, Perth

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory remain three points clear of their nearest rivals and still undefeated after a hard fought 2-1 victory over defending champions South Melbourne at Perth Oval last Sunday.

It was a result that looked anything but a home town win at the interval, since the visitors had dominated most of the play up until that time. "We were very fortunate Scott Miller equalised right on half-time, otherwide I think the outcome have been far different", said Glory coach Bernd Stange. "That's why I am happy only with the result, not the game itself," he said.

South Melbourne coach Ange Postecoglou was understandably dispirited having to come away with a third consecutive defeat at Perth Oval. "I'm the opposite to Bernd, where I was happy with the performance of the boys but disappointed with the result", he said. "In the past, although we have been beaten comprehensively here, I always felt quality wise, we were the better team.

"Perth are a different proposition this season however, and I'm sure they will be there come finals time", Postecoglou said.

The visitors couldn't have wished for a better start to the game when Michael Curcija stunned the home side and the record 18,067 attendance by finding the net on the counter-attack after just 80 seconds.

South Melbourne continued to hold the upper-hand, especially with their midfield drive for long periods of play, and frustrating their opponents by reducing the pace of the game.

Vas Kalogeracos, who came into the first eleven at the expense of Bobby Despotovski, was given a strong chance to equalise in the 20th minute, but Nick Orlic made a timely sliding interception.

Ten minutes later, Kalogeracos came closer when he slammed a Paul Strudwick cross into Michael Petkovic's goal in the 45th minute.

Glory eventually equalised two minutes into injury time when the former Perth Kangaroo goalkeeper failed to hold onto a rasping strike from John Markovski and Miller was perfectly placed to blast the loose ball into the net from the tightest of angles.

The home side took the lead ten minutes into the second half in similar circumstances when Kalogeracos had the simplest of tap-ins after Petkovic failed to hold a grass-cutter strike from man-of-the-match Miller.

Perth managed to hold on to take the match despite the determined efforts from South Melbourne skipper Paul Trimboli, Jason Polak and Fausto De Amicis.

Mike Curcija... his early goal was the only joy for South in the West.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 18,067

Referee: Brett Hugo

Perth Glory: D Milosevic, R Trajkovski, S Miller (M Garcia 71), V Buljubasic, G Wilkinson, D Hay, G Haven, P Strudwick (J Harnwell 83), J Markovski (B Despotovski 87), V Kalogeracos, T Halpin.

South Melbourne: M Petkovic, S Iosifidis, F De Amicis, N Orlic, D Clarkson, V Coveny (J Tsekinis 68), P Trimboli, M Curcija, J Anastasiadis (G Lozanovski 46), T Baser, J Polak (G Goutzioulis 83).

Yellow Cards
Glory: G Wilkinson 11; D Hay 75.
South Melbourne: M Petkovic 44; J Polak 51; N Orlic 65; G Lozanovski 84.

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: S Miller (PG)
2: F De Amicis 2 (SM)
1: G Wilkinson 1 (PG)

EDDIE'S BLUES BACK IN TUNE

CARLTON 3
D. Cervinski 30, Tricarico 57, Bresciano 83
CANBERRA COSMOS 0
At Optus Oval, Melbourne

By Ralph Barba

A focused Carlton unit put an end to their three game losing streak with a comfortable 3-0 win over bottom of the table, Canberra Cosmos at Optus Oval on Sunday.

Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic decided to invest his faith in youth, giving goalkeeper Adrian Cagalj his debut and striker Alex Josifovski his first start for the season, a courageous move that paid off handsomely.

Carlton started brightly with Olyroo Marco Bresciano earning plenty of the ball in the early exchanges. Gippsland recruit, Joe Tricarico was lively up front testing Canberra goalkeeper, Vilson Knezevic, twice in a matter of two minutes early in the half.

Canberra's tentative play and inability to keep possession allowed the Optus Oval tenants to gain some much needed confidence as the half wore on.

It was in the 30th minute that Carlton's superiority finally registered on the scoreboard. Dogged play by the nonstop Bresciano, for Carlton, put Andy Vlahos through on the right. His driving, low cross was forced over the line by defender David Cervinski to make the score 1-0 for the 'Blues'.

The goal should have opened the floodgates for a Carlton team, that over the last month, have been starved of success, but instead it signaled a change of attitude and increased work rate by the inexperienced Cosmos outfit.

Young recruit, Anthony Magnacca, and impressive forward Peter Buljan, started to trouble a Carlton defence that had become complacent with the goal.

Cosmos tough nut midfielder, Danny Burt, started to close down Carlton's Bresciano and with the silky skilled Cosmos midfielder, Michael Musitano, coming into the play with a succession of probing passes, the Cosmos looked to be back in the contest. It was Magnacca who failed to capitalise on Cosmos' good play by directing a free header wide of the goal just before half time.

In the second half, Carlton came out with renewed urgency. Bresciano broke free from Burt's shackles and orchestrated many of the home side's forward thrusts. The diminutive Carlton forward duo of Joe Tricarico and Andy Vlahos, penetrated the demoralised Cosmos defence repeatedly.

It seemed only a matter of time before Carlton's reward would come in the form of a goal. This materialised in the 57th minute when reliable captain, Sean Douglas, unleashed a 50 metre diagonal ball to the running Tricarico.

With only the keeper to beat, the young forward calmly lobbed the ball into the net to make it 2-0.

It was now all Carlton. Marco Bresciano earned just reward for a fine game, slotting home the Blues' third goal in the 83rd minute after he had robbed Canberra's Burt of the ball.

After the game a thoughtful Cosmos coach, Rale Rasic was left ruing his young team's errors. He said "All three goals for Carlton were gifts and that's one thing. It is the elimination of these errors, that my young team has to learn to overcome."

Carlton coach, Eddie Krncevic was very clear about his team's objectives on the day. "We always said today's game was not going to be easy. The objective was to get three points and get back on the road, and that's what we did."

MATCH STATS

Crowd: 2760

Referee: Sam Hastic

Carlton: Cagalj, Atkinson, Colosimo, Douglas, Cervinski (Della Rocca 80th), Stergiopoulos (Grbac 85th), Markovac (Moriera 75th), Bresiciano, Vlahos, Tricarico, Josifovski.

Canberra: Knezevic (Barlow 75th), Popovich, Burt, Zelic, Marcina, Magnacca, Buljan (Prenzoski 80th), Miglietti, Musitano (Mrdja 75th), Kelly, Clark.

Yellow Card
Canberra : Danny Burt 76th

Votes for Player of the Year:
3. Bresciano (Carlton)
2. Tricarico (Carlton)
1. Cervinski (Carlton)

ERICSSON CUP

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NEVER-SAY-DIE STRIKERS

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1
Salapasidis 60
BRISBANE STRIKERS 1
S. Cranney 87
At Brandon Park, Wollongong

By Rebecca Stanton

Wollongong Wolves looked about to secure their first home victory on Sunday evening against Brisbane Strikers, but the visitors weren't going to lay down, scrambling together a last minute goal to equalise the score 1-1 in the dying minutes of the game.

The first ten minutes proved to be very fast and extremely physical, with both teams failing to capitalise on good opportunities up front.

The Wolves were making good breaks against the run of play and in the 35th minute Michael Brooks put in a perfect cross to Fijian Esala Masi who failed to connect with the ball, allowing it to skim the top of his head.

Just before half time Brisbane also had their fair share of missed chances, when their nippy striker, Wayne Knipe, made a clean run up the middle of the park, but unfortunately for the Strikers he couldn't remain on his feet, tripping in the box making it a nice easy clearance for in-form Wolves keeper, Les Pogliacomi.

Both teams seemed fired up to claim the three points, and there was plenty of venom in tackles and challenges but the referee chose to let the game flow.

The Wolves came out in the second half looking to win it and in the 60th minute a clearing shot from Brisbane found the head of Stanton who found a fellow teammate up front and within a few seconds the Wolves were on the prowl.

A swift pass to Kosta Salapasidis put the Strikers on the back foot as he worked space for himself in the box, eventually finishing off with a perfect shot past the keeper into the back of the net, putting the Wolves ahead 1-0.

The game soon became a battle of desperation, the Wolves doggedly hanging on to their lead and the Strikers fully committed to the equaliser.

Brisbane made struggling last minute attempts at goal but great saves by Wolves' keeper kept them ahead.

Just when we thought the Wolves had it all wrapped up the Strikers' fighting spirit gave them a last minute burst of energy with four minutes to go — and alot of scrambling in the box — Brisbane's Sean Cranney managed to put the ball across the line taking the final score to 1-1.

In summary, Wollongong continued to play attacking soccer, but failing to close down players and get back in defence.

"We created about two or three clear cut chances and unfortunately last year they were going in and this year they're not and that's why we're in the position we are on the table, we have to make the most of the chances we're creating and at the moment they're not going in for us," commented a disappointed Wollongong captain, Matt Horsley.

"A draw on balance was possibly fair, Les I thought made a couple of great saves in the second half and they absorbed some pressure, but we'd be dirty if we didn't get something out of the game.

I suppose if I was brutally honest we were upset we didn't get the three but I guess they would be as well," stated Brisbane striker, Andy Harper after the game.

What a goal... Kosta Salapasidis.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 4,087

Referee: E Brazzale

Wolves: Pogliacomi, Souris, Ceccoli,(Huxley 83), Stanton, Sinozic, Horsley, Brooks, Surjan, (Dimoski 83), Salapasidis, Chipperfield, Masi,(Petrovski 55),

Strikers: Bolton,Gwynne, Zorich, Laybutt, Harper, Cranny, (Tollenaere 70), Knipe, Hews, Harris, Meredith, Wehrman

Yellows
Strikers: Harris (75)

Votes for Player of the Year:

3: Pogliacomi (W)
2: Harper (B)
1: Salapasidis (w)

SOUTHERN ZEBRAS TRAMPLE NORTHERN SPIRITS

ADELAIDE CITY 2
Mennillo 47, D. Kim 73
NORTHERN SPIRIT 0
At Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

By Margaret Bowden and Donald Campbell

The return of the grand master of Australian soccer Milan Ivanovic, and a rejuvenated Bradley Hassell running riot in midfield, ensured Adelaide City an exciting 2-0 victory over Graham Arnold's Northern Spirit, despite the late withdrawal of captain Alex Tobin with a calf injury.

If City coach Zoran Matic was unhappy with the Zebras' performance, the fans certainly weren't.

Both teams launched into full scale attack from the kick off, with City's Angelo Costanzo firing the first shot after only four minutes. This was met with an immediate reply by Clayton Zane. Both shots were easily saved by keepers Paul Henderson and Jason Petkovic. This set the tone of the first half.

Ivanovic, the 'old man' of the game, turned defence into attack for city, winning his duel with fellow 'old timer' Graham Arnold, and constantly running forward down the right wing.

Similarly, Luke Casserly and Paul Bilokapic attacked from the back for Spirit, keeping a tight reign on Damien Mori and David Terminello and ensuring an end -to-end tussle.

Bradley Hassell controlled the midfield for the entire 90 minutes, switching play from left to right and right to left to open up the Spirit defence. His combination with Veart, Menillo, Talladira, Kim, Costanzo, Terminello and Mori placed intense pressure on the Spirit, as did his solo runs into the penalty area and ceaseless shots at goal. Unfortunately for him, it wasn't to be his night as a goalscorer.

Kresimir Marusic playing wide on the right did for Northern Spirit what Hassell did for Adelaide City, combining with Robbie Slater wide on the left, Graham Arnold, Robert Enes and Clayton Zane to pressure the City defence. This opened the game up, which allowed both sides to play attractive attacking football.

The first real scoring chance came mid-way through the first half, when Bilokapic slipped just ouside the penalty area. Mori pounced on the ball and raced into the box, but shot across the face of the open goal. Mori appeared to be clean through for another shot after a defence-splitting zig-zag solo run down the right, but he was stopped by a superb Robbie Enes tackle on the edge of the box.

It was then Spirit's turn to attack through Slater and Arnold, but Ivanovic turned on the magic to dispossess Arnold. Their best chance of the half came in the 35th minute when Marusic switched the ball from the right to Arnold on the left, whose pile-driver from 25 metres was finger-tipped onto the cross bar by Petkovic.

Desperation for a goal before half time saw Costanzo send a high cross into the six yard area, but Henderson leapt above the in-rushing Mori and Hassell to make a great save. At the other end, Zane missed a golden opportunity when he ran onto a pass from Marusic but shot past the far post.

City broke the 0-0 deadlock right on the half time whistle when Terminello gained possession in midfield, and sent Kim away wide on the left. Kim ran the ball to the bye-line then cut it back into the penalty area, where Veart was waiting. His shot towards the bottom left hand corner of the net was scrambled away by Henderson, but Menillo followed in and scored from the rebound to make it 1-0 for City.

The second half produced as much excitement as the first, with Clayton Zane for Spirit and Bradley Hassell for City constantly attacking but failing to score. Highlight of the half was Mark Rudan's miraculous save off the goal line after Mori had headed the ball over Henderson.

As the ball hit the goal line, Rudan somehow managed to flick it over the cross bar, denying Mori his goalscoring record.

In the 73rd minute Hassell took possession on the right, sent a long high pass to Menillo on the left who raced into the penalty area, only to be boxed in by the Spirit defence. He turned and passed the ball back to Kim whose low shot from 20 metres flew past Henderson into the far right corner of the net.

This did not signal the end of the action, with both sides continuing to attack until the final whistle. Spirit looked like pulling a goal back in the 80th minute when a mad scramble in the City penalty area resulting from an Arnold shot left Enes free to shoot, but he skied his shot over the crossbar.

Spirit made a final substitution in the 85th minute, with Stubbs-Mills coming on for Enes, but this had no bearing on the last few minutes. With the game won, Ivanovic took the opportunity to taunt his opponents in the penalty area, almost daring them to try and take the ball of him. This was well appreciated by the crowd, and added the icing on the cake of the entertainment value.

MATCH STATS...

Crowd: 4,000 (estimated)

Referee: Lou Prospero (WA)

Adelaide City: Petkovic, Yates, Ivanovic, Talladira, Mori, Veart, Menillo, Costanzo, Hassell, Terminello, Kim.

Northern Spirit: Henderson, Rudan, Casserly (Watkins 65th) Marusic, Slater, Arnold, Moss, Bilokapic, Zane, Cunico, Enes (Stubbs-Mills 84).

Votes for Player of the Year

3: Bradley Hassell (AC)
2: Milan Ivanovic (AC)
1: Kresimir Marusic (NS)

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National Youth League

By Roy Hay

Southern Division

Round Six

Albury Wodonga (Tim McCoy)	1	**Bulleen Inter** (Michael Gullino)	2
Gippsland Falcons	0	**South Melbourne** (Andrew Mashoian, Nick Marinos)	2
Melbourne Knights (Adis Kablar)	1	**VIS** (Simon Storey)	1

Carlton v Bye

League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VIS	5	4	1	0	14	3	13
South Melbourne	5	3	0	2	7	5	9
Bulleen Inter Kings	5	3	0	2	5	8	9
Carlton	3	2	0	1	11	5	6
Melbourne Knights	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
Gippsland Falcons	5	1	0	4	5	10	3
Albury Wodonga	4	0	0	4	2	13	0

Round Seven
Saturday 21 November

Albury Wodonga v Melbourne Knights, (Myrtleford, 6 pm)

Sunday 22 November

South Melbourne v Carlton, (Bob Jane Stadium, 7.15 pm)
Gippsland Falcons v Bulleen Inter, (Mobil Park, 4.30 pm)
Bye v VIS

Southern Division

In a hard fought game at Albury, Bulleen Inter Kings came out on top by two goals to one. Michael Gullino opened for Bulleen, running on to a pass, then rounding the keeper to slot home after 23 minutes.

Tim McCoy equalised after 38. Gullino popped up for the winner in the 84th minute, and both teams had a player sent off.

Gippsland Falcons found South Melbourne just too hot to handle at Mobil Park, losing 2-0. Andrew Mashoian kept up his excellent scoring run with the first goal for South Melbourne in 29 minutes. Nick Marinos followed up with the second four minutes later.

A thoroughly entertaining game between Melbourne Knights and the VIS ended in a one-all draw at Somers Street.

The Knights led when the VIS defence fell apart after fourteen minutes and Adis Kablar took advantage to score against Martin John, who returned from the Knights to the VIS for this game. Daniel Vasilevski's passing was a feature of the VIS counter attacks, but Tony Cizmadija in the Knights' goal was brilliant with a string of fine saves.

He could do nothing however about a thunderbolt from distance by Simon Storey in 76 minutes which produced the equaliser.

Northern Division

Nine goals were scored in the Canberra derby with the AIS just coming out on top by five goals to four. Having a player sent off in the first five minutes was another shock to the AIS and when ACT Academy went off to a four-two lead a major upset was looming.

Matt Julienne scored first for ACT in 5 minutes, though Kevo Guleserian equalised in 12 minutes.

Brad Smith and Jeff Howarth made it three-one for the the Academy, efore Michael Ferrante pulled one back just before half-time. Steven Kemp, younger brother of the AIS's Matt Kemp, made it four-two, but Guleserian scored again within a minute. However it was not till the 74th minute that Ivan Ergic equalised for the AIS. Guleserian completed his hat-trick with the winner in 83 minutes as the ACTAS lads ran out of legs. Luke Wilkshire and young Wes Bryett at the back for the AIS, but both sides could take a lot of credit from this game.

Sydney United Colts beat Sydney Olympic Academy by two goals to nil at Edensor Park on Saturday. Both United goals came from Hayden Schneider late in the game, in 69 and 87 minutes. United's other star was keeper Mirko Topic who kept the eager Olympic forwards at bay for the whole ninety minutes.

New South Wales Institute of Sport had a fine three-nil win over Sydney United. Simon Catanzaro opened the scoring in 13 minutes, then Mark Byrnes made it two in 17. It remained thus until the last ten minutes when Tallan Martin rounded off the scoring.

Top players for the Institute included Nahuel Arrarte, Shane Lockhart, Matthew Nash, while Robert Angievski was unlucky not to get on the score-sheet for United.

Sydney Olympic downed Northern Spirit Colts by five goals to two at Belmore, but it was the Colts which opened the scoring through Nathaniel George inside the first five minutes.

Then Olympic came back strongly with a goal by Peter Zorbas after 32 minutes and the first of two by Leo Carle just before the break. Carle got his second, then Jim Bakis chipped in with his regular goal and Scott Baillie made it five, before Todd Macrae scored the final goal for the Colts.

It was a much improved performance by the Colts, with Pascal Juliard and Nathaniel George the pick of the team. Peter Papanikitas is still concerned that his team is not hitting the back of the net often enough from the chances created but with 21 goals from six games there is still a fair number going in.

Wollongong Wolves downed Queensland Academy of Sport by three goals to one. Paul Tuturevski opened for the Wolves in 33 minutes, and two late goals by Michael Clare and Chad Bishop sealed the game. Morgan Cawley scored for QAS.

Northern Spirit had a two-nil win against Marconi Fairfield Colts. Adam Schneider and Ian Kebblewhite were the scorers in this match.

Marconi Fairfield had another big score this time a nine-nil win over Wollongong Wolves Colts. Mark Hagger hammered in four goals, starting with a penalty after 25 minutes and adding three in the second half. Chad Gibson got a hat-trick in 31, 56 and 68 minutes and Mauro van Salenberg scored two including the opener in 6 minutes and another in 55 minutes.

In the South Australian Division Adelaide City had a four-one win over Modbury.

Northern Division

Round Six

Marconi Fairfield (Mark Hagger 4, Chad Gibson 3, Mauro van Salenberg 2)	9	**Wollongong Wolves Colts**	0
AIS (Kevo Guleserian 3, Michael Ferrante,Ivan Ergic)	5	**ACTAS** (Matt Jullienne, Brad Smith, Jeff Howarth, Steven Kemp)	4
Sydney United Colts (Hayden Schneider 2)	2	**Sydney Olympic Academy**	0
NSWIS (Simon Catanzaro, Mark Byrnes, Tallan Martin)	3	**Sydney United**	0
Sydney Olympic (Leo Carle 2, Peter Zorbas, Jim Bakis, Scott Baillie)	5	**Northern Spirit Colts** (Nathaniel George, Todd Macrae)	2
Wollongong Wolves (Paul Tuturevski, Chad Bishop, Michael Clare)	3	**QAS** (Morgan Cawley)	1
Marconi Fairfield Colts	0	**Northern Spirit** (Adam Schneider, Ian Kebblewhite)	2

Newcastle Breakers v Bye

League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle Breakers	5	5	0	0	17	5	15
Northern Spirit	6	5	0	1	11	6	15
Marconi Fairfield	6	4	1	1	28	4	13
Sydney Olympic	6	4	1	1	21	7	13
AIS	5	3	1	1	16	8	10
QAS	6	3	1	2	14	11	10
NSWIS	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Wollongong Wolves	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Sydney United Colts	6	2	0	4	8	15	6
Sydney United	6	1	2	3	5	11	5
Northern Spirit Colts	5	1	1	3	10	16	4
Marconi Fairfield Colts	4	1	0	3	1	8	3
ACTAS	6	1	0	5	12	29	3
Sydney Olympic Academy	6	0	2	4	3	15	2
Wollongong Wolves Colts	5	0	1	4	2	21	1

Leading Goalscorers

Name	Team	Goals
Mark Hagger	Marconi Fairfield	9

Round Seven
Friday 20 November

Newcastle Breakers v Marconi Fairfield, (Breakers Stadium, 5.45 pm)

Saturday 21 November

QAS v Marconi Fairfield Colts, (Suncorp Stadium, 4.30 pm)
Northern Spirit Colts v Sydney United Colts, (Christie Park, 4 pm)
Wollongong Wolves Colts v Sydney Olympic, (Brandon Park No 2, 4 pm)
Sydney United v Wollongong Wolves, (Edensor Park, 5 pm)

Sunday 22 November

Sydney Olympic Academy v AIS, (Wentworth Park, 4 pm)
ACTAS v NSWIS, (AIS Soccer Field, 4 pm)
Northern Spirit v Bye

Perth Glory

Picture by SportsWest Media

Australian Features

SWEDE SET TO JOIN ERICSSON CUP?

By Craig Wilson

Swedish central defender Ulf Hollsten is currently talking with a top Ericsson Cup side about playing the remainder of this season in Australia.

Hollsten, who wrote to Soccer Weekly several weeks ago outlining his wish to play in this country, has attracted interest from the unnamed club, and also from a top sporting agent.

The classy defender has just completed the Swedish season with BK Hacken. Hacken finished mid-table in the Swedish premier competition, having been promoted last year. At over six feet, and with 8 goals in 134 appearances for the Gothenburg based team, Hollsten could be the bargain of the season for a domestic club.

Hollsten is now 28, and at the peak of his career, but as he told Soccer Weekly, "Our clubs can't compete with other European teams in terms of money and other benefits. The league is suffering here because so many top players are in Norway and England where they can negotiate better contracts".

Administrators have blamed the absence of home-based players for their inability to qualify for this year's World Cup Finals, but there is no doubting the qualities of Swedish footballers.

Hollsten first came to Australia on holiday in 1996. "I was on holiday in Australia for six weeks, I really enjoyed the climate, and the friendliness of the people meant that I really enjoyed my stay".

Do you have any preference for which city you'd like to play in? "Well I really liked Sydney, of course" he says, "But I travelled all around the east coast, from Melbourne to Brisbane, and I loved it all.

"Of course Australia is so far away that we get very little information in Sweden about the club competition" says Hollsten when asked about his knowledge of the game here. "But I have seen the national team play against Norway a couple of years ago. I know all the teams, and the reputation of some of the coaches, but of course I don't know any of them personally".

"I have a contract with Hacken which runs until December 31, but with the season over I am free to move" he says.

The Bosman ruling has created a player log-jam in Europe, and Hollsten feels that other young players could follow the route down-under.

"I have talked with some players who are very interested in playing in Australia" he says.

Dept of Immigration rules are that visas are available to "sports people from other countries to engage in competition with Australian residents and to improve general sporting standards through high calibre competition ...", though the onus would be on the individual club through Soccer Australia to prove the player would do so.

Ulf Hollsten... could Aussie fans be seeing the Swede playing in our Ericsson Cup?

An official of the Swedish players association recently stated that young players were being forced abroad by poor contracts, and with Europe at breaking point, should start to look further afield for opportunities.

With recent quality overseas signings at clubs like Northern Spirit, who is to say that if Ulf Hollsten winds up on these shores he will not be the tip of a Scandinavian iceberg ?

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AROUND TOWN....

Soccer Weekly is acquiring quite a stable of radio personalities. Firstly, we have The Four Diegos from Melbourne. Also, from FBI radio in Sydney there is Craig Wilson, who this week has a number of UK stories and the above interview.

And from Adelaide's Coast FM (88.5) is Margaret Bowden. She runs the 'Talking Soccer' show on Sunday mornings (9-11am).

Get every point of view on the game — players, coaches, referees, supporters — from the panel: Australia's most respected FIFA referee Donald Campbell, ex Apia and West Adelaide (Sharks) goalkeeper Robbie Parks, ex Adelaide City and Sharks player, and Raiders' coach Mark Brazzale, ex West Adelaide (Sharks) star Raymond Blair & fanatical spectator and women's soccer promoter Margaret Bowden.

Think soccer — think Sunday — think 88.5 Coast FM

As always, there are guests from the game in Adelaide. Look out for a special promotion Soccer Weekly will be doing with Margaret. It involves books and CDs, all in time for Christmas.

Carlton will be out promoting the game with a series of appearances in Melbourne. They will be at primary schools, Children's Hospitals and even Banks!!

See the club for details, but we can say that Socceroo and Olyroo superstar, Simon Colosimo, is rostered on.

SOCCER IS KING OF AUSSIE KIDS

By Aidan Ormond

In case you had not noticed, Soccer has officially taken over the hearts, minds and souls of our youth.

In a report last week by Tim Colebatch in Melbourne's The Age, the writer revealed a bureau of statistics report that found that, on a national basis, Soccer is played by more kids aged 5-14 than other sports such as Aussie Rules, Cricket and Swimming.

According to the stats, approximately 229,000 kids aged 5-14 are playing 'the round ball code' (as it is quaintly described in the mainstream press!).

And according to the article Soccer has 'taken over in the heartland or rugby': NSW, ACT and QLD.

NSW is particularly encouraging, with 112,00 boys aged 14 and under, almost twice as many as the combined total of rugby league, union and touch football.

The survey, however, shows that Victoria is not a strong Soccer state, together with WA (Perth Glory's success is obviously taking time to kick in).

Girls' Soccer continues to make impressive inroads with the survey finding that 20,000 girls are playing nationally, compared to 11,000 playing cricket nationally.

Soccer is the most popular form of football for girls aged 5-14, ending up tenth most popular in the overall findings. First was Netball.

And with the World Cup qualifying success of the highly-rated national women's team, the Matildas, these sorts of figures can only increase over time.

Of course, and as the article points out, the critical point is the moving from junior and youth to adult soccer, in terms of playing and watching. The writer points out that 15 years ago, AFL legend James Hird was infact a junior soccer player in Canberra!

The Bureau of Statistics findings

Children aged 5-14 taking part in organised sport through clubs or schools (figures based on thousands).

Soccer Weekly looks forward to bringing more junior soccer stories as the national and European seasons draw to a close.

Boys	('000s)	Girls	('000s)
1 Soccer	209	1 Netball	221
2 Aussie Rules	184	2 Swimming	178
3 Cricket	165	3 Tennis	99
4 Swimming	154	4 Basketball	83
5 Basketball	153	5 Athletics	64*
6 Tennis	105	6 Softball	60*
7 Rugby League	84	7 Gymnastics	58
8 Athletics	73	8 Hockey	31
9 Martial arts	62	9 Martial arts	23
10 Softball	52	10 Soccer	20

De La Salle College Ashfield Wins Hat-Trick of State Titles

De La Salle College's Open Soccer team are now confirmed as the undisputed Champions of New South Wales Schoolboy Soccer after completing their hat-trick of state titles.

Having already been crowned State Catholic Champions, the school won the NSW Non-Government and NSW.

All Schools Cup Finals beating Barker College and Bossley Park High Schools 3-1 and 2-1 respectively. The Cup Challenge brought together the champion schools in each Educational System.

De La Salle Ashfield came from behind in both finals. Coach David Mamo said he was extremely proud of the effort and commitment of all players and singled out captain Adrian Vizzari for his play, leadership and cup winning goals.

Mamo went on to say that the triple State Championship victory was just reward for the years of effort by students and coaches and the soccer programme of the school.

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THE EMOTION OF... THE GLOBAL GAME

Compiled by ASIA Soccer Weekly

NEWS * NEWS * NEWS

Saudi Arabia fans were involved in post-match trouble for the second time in successive matches on Wednesday after their team were held 0-0 by Qatar in the Gulf Cup.

Angry Saudi followers hurled plastic seats on to the pitch after the game, watched by FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

On Sunday, Saudi fans rioted and clashed with police after their side beat the United Arab Emirates 1-0.

The trouble was less serious on this occasion and there was no major confrontation.

Victory would have given the Saudis the trophy for only the second time in the 28-year history of the tournament but the draw left its destination in other hands.

The World Cup finalists head the standings with 11 points from five games but holders Kuwait can now claim the title for a ninth time with a victory over UAE.

A draw or victory for UAE would leave the Saudis, who last won the biennial tournament in 1994, champions.

One of the Iranian strikers who helped beat the United States at the World Cup this summer has earned special exemption from doing his national service.

Mehdi Mahdavi-Kia was awarded the dispensation as reward for his goal in Iran's famous 2-1 win over the United States in Lyon, local daily Etelaat reported on Wednesday.

Since his showing in France 98 the 22-year-old has been wooed by overseas clubs but "the bull calf of Tehran" as he is nicknamed has been unable to follow up any offers due to his military obligations.

The historic game was the first major sporting event between the two countries since the 1979 American embassy hostage crisis in Tehran.

Indonesia plans to appeal to football's world governing body against a life ban on a player who scored a deliberate own goal in an international tournament.

The Indonesian Football Association said the ban imposed by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) last week on Mursyid Effendi was unfair.

"If AFC refuses to change the suspension, we will file an appeal to the international football federation (FIFA)," Indonesian association chairman Agum Gumelar said, according to the Antara news agency.

Effendi was banned after scoring the deliberate own goal during a Tiger Cup match against Thailand in Ho Chi Minh City in August. Indonesia were desperate to lose the match to avoid meeting the host nation in the semifinal and the own goal meant Thailand won 3-2.

"AFC has put an end to our player's career, this is not human and we hope, therefore that they review their decicion," Gumelar said.

He said the sanction should not be more severe than those meted against players found guilty of doping.

Indonesian association secretary general Nugraha Besus is to hold talks with the AFC in an attempt to get the ban changed or lifted, Gumelar said.

The ASEAN Football Assocation fined Indonesia and Thailand over the match.

Osvaldo Ardiles, once of Argentina and Tottenham Hotspur, is now at home as coach to Shimizu S-Pulse, the most improved team in the J-League.

There, after a career that has seen him shine in Buenos Aires, London, Paris and Newcastle, he is celebrated as saviour of a club that was going nowhere before his arrival.

But while he loves his life in Japan and the success he has enjoyed at the provincial coastal city club, he hankers for a return to Europe or South America and involvement with a traditional big club in the world game.

Ardiles, a member of Argentina's World Cup winning team in 1978, and his English coach Steve Perryman, who enjoyed great success with him at Tottenham in the early 1980s, have coped with the rigours of Japanese life, food, culture and language to transform the cash-strapped S- Pulse from strugglers to championship contenders.

"It all started in 1996 when my father died and I went back to Argentina," recalled Ardiles.

"I received a phone call and was offered this job, in Japan. It was very interesting for me and I accepted it in principle in January.

"All the details had to be done quickly because the J-League season started on February 1. So I met their president in London, with Steve Perryman too, and we decided to go. It all had to be done very quickly."

Ardiles flew out with his wife, leaving his sons to continue their educations in England – they are at university now in Warwick and London -- while Perryman brought his family with him.

It is a testament to their determination that they have stuck it out in such a remote city as Shizuoka (population 240,000) which one local English-speaking resident compared disparagingly with "somewhere like Hull crossed with Scarborough."

Ardiles said he loves it, particularly while he is successful, but also made it clear he is ready to return to Europe when his third one-year contract in succession comes to its conclusion later this month.

His success, however, makes it likely he will receive another job offer from the club to stay on for a fourth season.

"Truly, it has been fantastic, wonderful and a great experience," he explains.

In 1997, when the season was split into two stages, he guided them to seventh and then sixth. This year, they finished second in the first part of the season and are currently sixth, but can still finish as high as third. They have also won the Nabisco Cup.

For a club with limited resources playing to average gates of around 12,000 in a 20,000 capacity stadium, it is a respectable record.

GULF CUP WINNER LOSES COACH

Kuwait's celebrations at retaining soccer's Gulf Cup have been tainted because Czech coach Milan Macola is not renewing his contract.

Kuwait won the biennial tournament with a 4-1 victory over the United Arab Emirates on Thursday -- their ninth success in the 28-year history of the competition.

But Macola said after the game that he would be leaving when his contract runs out in March.

"I have been in Kuwait six years and it's the best time to go," he said. "I have promised it to my family."

After four years in Kuwaiti club soccer, Macola took over the national team two years ago, leading them to the Gulf Cup just weeks into the job.

His second victory on Thursday was made easier when UAE had Adel Ibrahim sent off in the 23rd minute, three minutes after Bader Haji had put Kuwait ahead from the penalty spot.

Bashar Abdullah made it 2-0 in the 38th minute and although Hasan Suhail pulled one back, tournament top scorer Jassem Al Houwidi took his tally to nine with two more to complete the win.

J-LEAGUE HIT BY ASIAN MELTDOWN

Recession has badly hit Japan's five-year-old professional football championship with a growing number of sponsors withdrawing from the J-League, news reports said Friday.

Fujita Corp. has decided to sell the Bellmare Hiratsuka club because of a sharp decline in sales and profit, the Asahi Shimbun said.

Fujita, which owns 70 percent of the team, also decided to pull out after the number of spectators at Bellmare's stadium, west of Tokyo, had almost halved from its peak, the daily said.

Japan's World Cup star Hidetoshi Nakata was a member of the team before joining Serie A side Perugia of Italy this season.

A spokesman for Fujita denied the report, but said: "We are considering reorganising the operations of the football team."

The report came a day after Yomiuri Shimbun, co-owner of troubled Verdy Kawasaki, announced its withdrawal from the management of the two-time champions.

The nation's largest newspaper company said it would sell its 49 percent stake in Kawasaki to Nippon Television Network (NTN), which will take full ownership.

But NTN president Seiichiro Ujiie has already said it may give up the club, which had 2.6 billion yen in debts at the end of last year.

"I think Verdy's mission (in Japanese soccer) is already over," Ujiie was quoted as saying. "Salvaging the parent company should come first under these circumstances and then comes the J-League's policy," Ujiie said.

The Yokohama Flugels collapsed two weeks ago after Sato Kogyo Co. withdrew, forcing co-owner All Nippon Airways to draw up a partnership with Nissan Motors, current owners of Yokohama Marinos, for a merged team next season.

More clubs are on the verge of collapse in the 18-team league.

Shimizu S-Pulse was near bankruptcy last year with an estimated two billion yen in debts before distribution firm Suzuyo Co. came to the rescue by acquiring a majorstake in a new company set up to operate the club.

Other clubs ridden with heavy debts include Consadole Sapporo, Avispa Fukuoka, Vissel Kobe and JEF United Ichihara, according to Kyodo News agency.

The J-League was enormously successful after its start in 1993, but its popularity has declined with many clubs facing financial difficulties following the economic slump.

The average attendance peaked at 19,600 in the first stage of the 1994 season, but attendances have fallen to below 10,000 in the second stage of the 1997 season, Kyodo said.

Japanese soccer leaders had hoped the country's appearance at the World Cup finals would rejuvenate the league.

Japan is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on co-hosting the 2002 World Cup finals with South Korea.

The Kashima Antlers beat Vissel Kobe 4-1 Saturday, winning the second-stage title in the 18-team Japanese professional soccer league.

Kashima, last year's first-stage winner, will play off against defending champion and first-stage winner Jubilo Iwata in a two-leg series beginning November 21.

Brazilian Jorginho scored first in the fourth minute as he outjumped two defenders to head in a corner from Toshiyuki Abe.

Atsushi Yanagisawa added a goal in the seventh minute followed by Yoshiyuki Hasegawa five minutes later.

Hasegawa scored his second goal eight minutes after the interval before South Korean Kim Do-hoon netted the only goal for Kobe 13 minutes later.

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Compiled and written by **CROATIA** Soccer Weekly's John Vrtaric

SOLDO V DAIEI

Croatia's Soldo in Bundesliga action for Stuttgart against a player all Aussies know very well.... Ali Daei.

WEEKEND RESULTS

Croatia	4	Zadarkomerc	0
Mladost 127	0	Hajduk	0
Varteks	2	Osijek	3
Slaven Belup	1	Rijeka	3
Cibalia	1	Zagreb	1
H. Dragovljac	1	Sibenik	2

TABLE

Croatia Zagreb	13	10	2	1	31 : 9	32
Rijeka	13	9	1	3	17 : 9	28
Hajduk	13	7	5	1	26 : 11	26
Osijek	13	8	2	3	25 : 11	26
Varteks	13	5	2	6	17 : 21	17
Zagreb	13	4	5	4	17 : 21	17
H. Dragovoljac	13	3	6	4	8 : 9	15
Zadarkomerc	13	3	3	7	16 : 24	12
Cibalia	13	2	5	6	12 : 19	11
Slaven Belupo	13	3	2	8	17 : 26	11
Sibenik	13	3	2	8	15 : 30	11
Mladost 127	13	2	3	8	12 : 23	9

ZAGREB SHOCK LOSERS

Croatia's first defeat Croatia, Zagreb suffered its first defeat in the national league when it lost its deferred Round 9 game 1-0 away to Rijeka last Wednesday.

Rijeka were in third position before the game but with this win it joins Hajduk in equal second spot, four points behind the leades, Croatia.

Velimir Zajec, the coach of Croatia, brought back Mark Viduka and Ardian Kozniku as his striking spearheads. Neither played in Croatia's previous two games, a 3-0 home victory over Porto, in the Champions Cup and a 2-1 away win over Sibenik, in the national leauge.

The hero of those games, Mihael Mikic, the 18 year old "boy wonder", scored a goal and was the man of the match in the Porto game and scored both goals against Sibenik.

Tomislav Rukavina, Croatia's left wing back, was not part of the run on team either as Zajec was of the view that he was tired and needed a rest.

Match Stats:

Rijeka: Tafra, Mijatovic, Milinovic, Ivancic, Eacic, Pilipovic, Agic, Musa, Viskovic, Stipanovic (Hasanic 83), Budan (Balaban 58).

Croatia: Ladic, Juric, Simic, Biscan, Saric, Jurcic(Rukavina 46), Tokic, Mujcin, Maric(Mikic 46), Viduka, Konzniku (Sokota 77).

Scorer: Pilipovic 22

Crowd: 10,000

The other young star of the future, Igor Biscan, did play for Croatia and was their best player.

The home team's goal was scored by Mladen Ivancic from a cross by Pilipovic.

The Bad Blue Boys (BBB) of Croatia well known for their notoriety, are now involved in a political fight. The BBB want Croatia Zagreb to change their name back to Dinamo.

Dinamo was the name of the club in the Yugoslavia era but after Croatia gained independence after the war with Yugoslavia (Serbia) the name was changed as it was regarded as having too close a connection with the old regime.

The BBB are now demanding that the club change their name back but have to fight two presidents to get their way — their own club president, Zlatko Canjug, and the president of the country, Dr Franjo Tujdman.

At Croatia's home ground, Maksimir, the BBB have been singing the old Dinamo songs.

The authorities' response was to ban the songs and demonstrated their resolve by arresting and incarcerating one of the BBB leaders, Goran Kovac.

Canjug has been vehement in his opposition to the BBB — his view is that they are not fans but hooligans.

Support is gaining momentum and the BBB are joined in the singing of old Dinamo songs by most of the crowd at Croatia's home game.

Supporters of other Croatian teams are also voicing their support for the BBB.

The BBB group of supporters vindicate their stance by pointing out that they supported Dinamo in the old days whilst President Tujdman was the club president of one of Croatia's foremost foes and one of Yugoslavia's strongest teams, Partizan Belgrade.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Croatian World Cup striker Goran Vlaovic is ready to leave Valencia, the Spanish media reported last Thursday.

Vlaovic underwent surgery for a groin injury in August. He feels he is now fit to return to action but is being ignored by Valencia coach Claudio Ranieri after playing just seven minutes of league soccer this season.

"I feel very bad about this. If this does not change then I cannot carry on here because I will lose a lot," Vlaovic was quoted as saying in the Spanish sports daily Marca.

The striker played in all seven of Croatia's games at France '98 and scored in their memorable 3-0 quarter final victory over Germany.

He scored seven times in 26 games for Valencia last season.

Vlaovic is planning a return to the Serie A league of Italy where he played before joining Valencia.

"Many people told me that I made a mistake when I left Italy, now I have come to agree with them.

"Even though I believe that the Spanish league is easier, I feel that the Italian style suits me. I believe that I will return to Italy", said Vlaovic, When asked if there was a chance that he will return to Croatia, Vlaovic replied:

"I don't know, we are talking about a lot of money(transfer fee). Certainly I would like to play in the European Champions League, but I believe that Croatia does not have the money.

"Anyhow, young Mikic is a big talent and he plays in my position so maybe it would be better if I went to Italy.

"I'm only twenty-six years of age, healthy and I think I can play well for a number of years to come.

"My manager, Antonio Caliendo, mentioned the possibility of joining Juventus. I believe that they are looking for a replacement for Del Piero."

Croatia's "Michael Owen", Mihael Mikic, has been put under the microscope by one of the biggest clubs in the world, Spain's Barcelona.

Mikic, who has scored three goals in his last two games(one against Porto and two against Sibenik) has already had an offer from Anderlecht but is unlikely to be released by his team, Croatia Zagreb.

The Spanish sports weekly, El Mundo, has reported that Mikic would be joining Barcelonet, the junior club of Barcelona, who play in the Spanish second division. Upon proving his worth he would then join Barcelona's main squad.

Mikic, who was selected in the all-star team in last summer's European Under-18 Championship, has attracted the attention of a number of other European clubs but, although he played in Croatia's last two games, is not, at this stage, guaranteed a spot in his team's first eleven. He has to contend with Mark Viduka(for a little while, at least), newcomer, Ardian Kozniku, as well as fellow youngsters, Tomislav Sokota, Josip Simic, and the Croatian international, Silvio Maric.

Luis Suarez, the coach of Inter Milan, recently attended a meeting with Croatia's international defender, Dario Simic. The meeting revolved around the possibility of Simic joining the Italian giants. No definite agreement was reached but Suarez is expected back in Zagreb next week. Simic is keen to move to Inter and would like the transfer to be arranged as soon as possible.

Impressive performances in the three European Cup competitions has resulted in Croatia gaining four entrants in the 1999 Cup competitions. The four Croatian teams gained 19 points in this year's competitions.

Varteks has gained seven points with its progress to the quarter finals of the Cup Winners Cup, Croatia, Zagreb has recorded six points, whilst Hajduk and Osijek have been awarded four and two points respectively.

Two teams have gained entry to the Champions Cup(first and second on the table), whilst another two teams have gained entry to the new UEFA Cup(the Croatian Cup winners and the team third on the table).

The UEFA Cup is the new competition emerging from the merging of this year's UEFA Cup and the Cup Winners Cup.

The quarter finals of the Croatia Cup were played last week with two first leg games and two second leg games. Cibalia beat Belisce 3-0 in their second leg game to advance to the semi finals while Slaven Belupo did the same with their 1-0 win against Segesta.

The other two games, both first legs, saw a 2-1 home win for Varteks over Osijek, while Hajduk achieved an away 0-0 draw at Cakovec.

Compiled by AFRICA Soccer Weekly

PLAYER SPECIAL

ELIPHAS SHIVUTE

Ibrox Park, Glasgow, may be about as far removed from Walvis Bay, Namibia, as it is possible to get. But it was there, last September, that Eliphas Shivute eagerly announced his arrival to the footballing-public of Scotland.

His goal, a minute before half-time, gave little Motherwell a shock 2-1 lead against defending league champions Rangers and stunned a crowd of more than 48,000 into disbelieving silence. A year later, people are no longer quite so surprised at the exploits of this likeable Namibian striker. This year Shivute has proved that he can also produce the goods on the international stage.

It was his goals that took Namibia to the finals of the Nations Cup in Burkina Faso where, almost single-handedly, he inspired one of the great comebacks of the tournament.

Trailing 3-0 to Côte d'Ivoire after just 34 minutes of their opening group game, the Brave Warriors looked dead and buried. But the pace and power of Shivute put the Ivorians under tremendous pressure and Namibia fought their way back into the game to draw level at 3-3, with Shivute scoring twice. A late winner from Côte d'Ivoire's Lassina Diabaté may have ruined the fairytale finish, but scouts from all over Europe went away with one name firmly underlined in their note books.Yet many of those watching the 26-year-old Shivute for the first time would have been surprised to know that this talented young striker was already playing his football overseas - and he was already onto his second country. The only question being asked of Shivute now, is where next?

It has not always been such plain-sailing for Namibia's number one player. The early years were a long, hard haul for the striker from Walvis Bay, the country's second-largest city.

Playing his club football for Eleven Arrows, Shivute constantly struggled to make ends meet financially and, with Namibia being a colony of South Africa at the time, there was no opportunity for Namibian players to go abroad and play internationally as they were subjected to the same sanctions as those upon South Africa's apartheid regime.

With players receiving just £10 sterling per game, Shivute - like so many others - was forced to look elsewhere for an additional income.

When Namibia was granted its independence in 1990, Shivute was immediately called up for the national side's first game when they were on the receiving end of a six-goal hiding from an all-star team that included Karl-Heinz Rummenigge of Germany and South African Jomo Sono.

Two years later, he won his first competitive international cap when Namibia played in the World Cup qualifiers.

Unfortunately, they conceded 11 goals in four games, without scoring themselves.

These were dark days for the country and the sport seemed to be fading away before it had even got started. Shivute was forced to put his hopes of a football career on hold as he travelled the country seeking employment. Eventually he found work in the diamond mines at Oranjemund and he retired from the game.

His loss was mourned by the Namibian football community, but everyone understood he needed to feed himself and make a living.

Sadly, soccer could not offer him that opportunity.

But Shivute clung to his dreams. Although he hadn't kicked a ball in anger for some 18 months, was overweight and far from match fit, Namibian coach Rusten Mogane had no hesitation in drafting him back into the national side for the start of the 1998 Nations Cup qualifying competition. Suddenly the Brave Warriors took off and they hammered Botswana 6-0 in the preliminary rounds. They then beat Kenya twice and drew with Gabon to go through to the finals.

Shivute began to attract interest from outside Namibia and he talked to several South African clubs.

However, his agent had bigger plans and he managed to arrange a move to the German amateur team SV Duren. From there he went on to Motherwell in Scotland. Able to play as a winger or an orthodox centre-forward, Shivute has settled into the Scottish game and now has his sights set on moving to a bigger league. A recent week's trial with English Premier side Charlton Athletic shows that uch a move may not be too far off.

Namibian national coach Seth Boois is one of those who believes that Shivute has what it takes to go all the way. Speaking to 'Afican Soccer' magazine he said: "As the coach of the Brave Warriors, I've got to say first that Shivute is a dream to work with," says Boois.

"He gives you 100 per cent co-operation and is a player who really listens to what you are telling him - during training and during matches. Those are the qualities that have made him so successful.

"He's also a very hard-working man and he is a source of encouragement for the younger players in the national squad. At 24, he is still a few years away from his peak and I'm convinced we still have to see the best of him." Shivute's goal against Mozambique in the Cosafa Castle Cup in August was his eighth for his country, leaving him just one off Gervatius Uri Khob's record.

With it surely being only a matter of time before Shivute makes that record his, it would appear that, in this ex-diamond miner, Motherwell and Namibia have uncovered a little gem all of their own.

And to Australian fans, these players are rarely seen in Australia, which is more the pity.

With acknowledgments to African Soccer Magazine for the information on these players.

DANIEL AMOKACHI

Istanbul may be a long way from Kaduna, but Amokachi still brings the traffic to a standstill. And with good reason too. The Nigerian international, who has spent the past two years in Turkey, capped his return to competitive action, on September 26, after a four-month lay off, by scoring the opening goal in Besiktas' 2-1 victory over Istanbulspor.

He celebrated as would a prisoner taking his first steps of freedom. It was a fitting riposte to the Turkish press. In June, the player commonly regarded as the Godfather of the Super Eagles could only watch agonisingly from the sidelines as his team-mates crashed out of the World Cup finals. The months that followed were dominated by newspaper reports that his knee injury would never allow him to play football at the highest level again.

On a personal level Amokachi's year has also been a struggle. He has endured the loss of both his father-in law and brother-in-law, as well as the sudden death of the Nigerian head of state, General Sani Abacha, with whom he had a particularly, some would say unusually, close relationship.

What a contrast to USA '94, when the player first captured the world's attention. His subsequent move to Everton in the English Premiership turned sour, despite winning the FA Cup, and he would often spend his Saturday afternoons on the bench looking lost and out of place. When the possibility of a move to Turkey came up, Amokachi seized it, not least because the contract was lucrative. And it is there that he has quietly re-established his credentials and looked more like the player who twice claimed the Ebony Boot - for the best black player in Belgium - while at FC Bruges.

In Turkey he remains immensely popular, appearing frequently in TV adverts and programmes.

But if Amokachi feels at home in Turkey, there is still the widely-held view, especially among his adoring Nigerian fans, that for all the financial appeal of the Turkish league, it remains too remote a stage for a player of his abilities.

Such has been Amokachi's impact on Nigerian soccer that it is easy to forget that he is still only 25 years old. It is almost a decade since the precocious 16-year-old was spotted by the then Nigerian national coach, Clemens Westerhof, while playing for local club Ranchers Bees.

Amokachi was drafted straight into the national side and to this day remains one of the few members of the national side not to have progressed through the junior ranks. Amokachi, or "The Bull" as he is known, remains an icon of the Nigerian team that impressed the world in 1994 and clinched Gold at the Atlanta Olympics two years later.

His achievements, however, have not lead to complacency but instead fired the ambition that saw a boy rise from relatively humble surroundings to rub shoulders with heads of state.

Surrounded by his Tunisian wife, Nadia, and his twin boys, Khalim and Nazim, Amokachi talks like a man destined for a greater calling.

THE AFRICAN PLAYER

Back in 1995, a Leeds United supporter standing outside the club's Elland Road ground and clad in the bright yellow of the Black Stars, cried out to a small group of Ghanaians making their way into the stadium: "Ghana! We want more of your players!".

The same thought must have crossed the minds of many Premiership managers having seen Tony Yeboah in action. Strong, skilful and fast, the Ghanaian striker was rifling in goals from distances and angles that defied the perceived aerodynamics of the modern football.

Ferocious strikes against Liverpool and Wimbledon remain lodged in the memories of fans across the country.And in the wake of Kevin Keegan's failure to lure George Weah to Newcastle, Yeboah quickly rose to become Africa's first superstar in the English game.

Yeboah's heyday - short-lived though it ultimately proved to be - was an important breakthrough for African players in one of the most gruelling leagues in the world. But since Yeboah's acrimonious parting of ways with the Leeds manager George Graham in 1997, African players have struggled to make an impact in England.

At the start of the 1998-99 season there were only five Africans regularly playing in the top flight: Moussa Saib of Algeria (Tottenham Hotspur), Nigeria's Celestine Babayaro (Chelsea), Efan Ekoku (Wimbledon), Liberia's Christopher Wreh (Arsenal) and the South African World Cup captain Lucas Radebe (Leeds United).

There are others playing in the first division who have Premiership experience behind them, including South Africa's Mark Fish and Eric Tinkler (Bolton Wanderers and Barnsley respectively), and Zimbabwe's Peter Ndlovu (Birmingham City).

Compare this with any other western European league, and it soon becomes apparent that England remains largely unchartered territory for Africa's finest.

As the world's attention gradually turned away from the World Cup in France, there were endless reports of African internationals joining English clubs. Guinean striker Titi Camara was on trial at Tottenham, while Ivorian Ibrahim Bakayako spent the pre-season with North London rivals Arsenal.

Neither secured a permanent move.

Manchester United's interest in Marc-Vivien Foe faded as the Cameroonian failed a medical, and Taribo West - probably taking to heart by the fate of fellow Super Eagle Daniel Amokachi in England - opted to stay with Internazionale in Italy rather than join Liverpool.

South African born Sean Dundee, now a German citizen, has signed for Liverpool, but even before making his first team debut was being linked with Auxerre in France.

On the one hand, there appears to be a growing interest in African players by English clubs, but there is still a tendency among English managers to balk at the final hurdle.

There remain reservations over African players' capacity to adapt to the demands of English football.

Two out of Africa's four Premiership representatives were bought by foreign coaches - Ruud Gullitt of Holland and Christian Gross of Switzerland.

Of the others, Ekoku was raised in England, while Radebe was signed by former Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson. Now head of youth development at the English Football Association, Wilkinson also signed Yeboah and Phil Masinga.

Still, it was telling that while the African Nations Cup in Burkina Faso was swarming with agents and club representatives from around Europe, there was no obvious sign of anyone from the top English clubs.

It is almost unbelievable in an age when one speaks increasingly of a global game. It may be that the roots of the stand-off lie less in prejudice than in a lack of familiarity and the specific laws that govern the land.

The greatest impediment facing African players in England is the stringent rules set out for non-European Union players by the Department of Employment.

This shuts the gates on many players, especially the younger ones.

Compiled by **LATINO** Soccer Weekly

NEWS

Rangers striker Sebastian Rozental is returning to Universidad Catolica on loan for a season in a bid to save his career.

The Chilean international striker, who joined the Scottish club in 1996 in a 4 million pounds ($6.64 million) transfer, flew back home to Santiago on Wednesday for another operation on his knee.

Rangers chairman David Murray has said the 22-year-old can play for his old club for a season if the damaged ligament recovers from surgery.

However there are grave fears in Scotland that Rozental's knee will not withstand further wear and tear and that he will never return to Glasgow.

Rozental got off to a great start in his Rangers career, scoring on his first start in a Scottish Cup tie against St Johnstone.

But an innocuous twist in that match tore knee ligaments and forced Rozental to undergo two operations and lengthy rehabilitation spells in the United States and Chile.

Rozental, before flying home, said he would be back within 18 months and would fulfill his contract which runs until 2001.

Diego Maradona has offered to make yet another comeback in order to help the victims of Hurricane Mitch in central America.

Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz floated the idea earlier this week of his club staging a benefit match against a team of Latin American players from Spanish League clubs.

Maradona on Saturday reacted enthusiastically to the plan that he described as "marvellous."

"I'd love to play in this game, or at least be present at it," the former World Cup winning captain told Seville-based radio station Canal Sur. "We can't ignore this type of catastrophe.

"It's a marvellous idea because today football generates a lot of money, which is what is needed after this terrible disaster."

Maradona, who retired from the game for the sixth time in October last year, played for Barcelona and Sevilla in Spain during his long career.

A long-running feud between Brazil's fiery national coach Wanderley Luxemburgo and a referee is set to go to court it was revealed on Wednesday after the official decided enough was enough and started legal proceedings.

Luxemburgo, who has a history of heated exchanges both with his players and footballing authorities, charged on to the pitch during a league match last November and accused referee Claudio Cerdeira of being prejudiced against his side Santos and wanting them to lose – they won the match 4-0.

Cerdeira is suing Luxemburgo, who was subsequently suspended for 40 days by the Brazilian Football Federation, for $55,000 for 'damaging his morale' following remarks he made on television.

Luxemburgo, who succeeded Mario Zagallo at the helm of the national side after the World Cup final loss to France in July, claimed on national television that the referee was nothing but a 'thief and a swine'.

COPA MERCONORTE FIRST ROUND

Group B

Alianza (Peru) . . . . . 4 The Strongest (Bolivia) . 0

Final First Round Standings:
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Millonarios (Colombia)	6	3	1	2	7	8	10
2. Emelec (Ecuador)	6	2	3	1	9	6	9
3. America (Colombia)	6	1	4	1	9	9	7
4. Sporting Cristal (Peru)	6	0	4	2	5	7	4

Millonarios qualify for semifinals

Group B

1. A Nacional (Colombia)	6	3	2	1	14	7	11
2. Alianza (Peru)	6	2	2	2	8	6	8
3. The Strongest (Bolivia)	6	2	2	2	5	9	8
4. Barcelona (Ecuador)	6	1	2	3	5	10	5

Atletico Nacional qualify

Group C

1. Deportivo Cali (Colombia)	6	3	2	1	7	3	11
2. El Nacional (Ecuador)	6	3	1	2	6	6	10
3. Caracas F.C. (Venezuela)	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
4. Universitario (Peru)	6	1	2	3	6	8	5

Deportivo Cali qualify
Note: El Nacional also qualify as the best runners-up.

Semifinal line-up:
Millonarios v Atletico Nacional
Deportivo Cali v El Nacional

THE MAD MAD WORLD OF SOUTH AMERICA

Three times Brazilian champions Sao Paulo bowed out of this year's competition to the bizarre chant of "shock absorbers, shock absorbers" from fans. One of the weirdest soccer songs ever heard came in reply to comments made earlier in the week by club president Jose Augusto Bastos Neto about the reduced capacity of the club's Morumbi stadium.

Sao Paulo city authorities lowered the capacity of the upper tier from 40,000 to 13,000 until shock absorbers are placed in the structure.

Authorities say they are needed to reduce the impact caused by fans jumping and down in unison, which causes the stadium to wobble alarmingly. But Bastos Neto said he was not prepared to spend the money.

"Wherever I go people shout for players (jogador in Portuguesa)," he said. "You never hear the crowd chant shock absorber (amortecedor).

But during Thursday's 2-0 win over Atletico Paranaense he was made to eat his words as the cries of "amortecedor" echoed around the ground. Sao Paulo finished 15th in the qualifying stage of the Brazilian championship and were eliminated. The Morumbi, which once held 110,000, now holds just 53,000 after the new rulin

Joel Sanchez scored twice to lead Chivas of Guadalajara past Argentina's Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata 2-1 Wednesday night in the final of the Coliseum Cup soccer tournament in front of a crowd of 25,299.

Sanchez's second goal broke a 1-1 tie in the 54th minute. Goalkeeper Guillermo Hernando deflected Ricardo Pelaez's header off Ramon Ramirez's free kick. But the rebound went through the legs of Gimnasia's Ruben Ferrer, and Sanchez converted at the right post.

Ferrer had tied the score four minutes earlier. Dario Aurelio chipped a ball between two defenders to Ferrer. Sanchez deflected the ball but fell, and Ferrer scored from four yards on a left-footed shot.

Sanchez's first goal came in the 29th minute. After a defender deflected Paolo Cesar Chavez's corner kick, Sanchez stepped between two defenders for a diving header from six yards.

Gimnasia y Esgrima had a chance to tie the score in the 63rd minute, but Siro Darino's 30-yard line drive hit the left post.

Chivas played with 10 men in the final 24 minutes after Chavez received his second yellow card for a dangerous tackle on Dario Cavallo.

Both clubs hold second place in the overall standings of their respective national leagues.

The six-team field for the Coliseum Cup, which began in July, included Communicaciones from Guatemala, Luis Angel Fierpo of El Salvador and the Mexican clubs Cruz Azul and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico (UNAM).

American referee Arturo Angeles, who officiated in the 1994 World Cup, concluded his career Wednesday night.

Major League Soccer's D.C. United, North American club champion, will faces Brazil's Vasco da Gama, the South American club champion, in game one of the Interamerican Cup on Saturday at RFK Stadium.

The Interamerican Cup is contested annually between the champions from CONCACAF (North and Central America and the Caribbean) and CONMEBOL (South America).

United qualified by virtue of winning the 1998 CONCACAF Champions Cup, 1-0 against CD Toluca of Mexico, on Aug. 16, in Washington. Vasco da Gama won the two-legged Copa Libertadores final against Barcelona of Ecuador in August.

The Interamerican Cup is also contested in two legs. The first leg will be played at RFK Stadium while the second leg will be played at Lockhart Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. on December 5. The team scoring the most goals over the two legs will be the winner.

Bayern Munich's Brazilian striker Elber was fined by his club for receiving too many yellow cards.

Elber was suspended after collecting his fifth yellow card when Bayern fell 1-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt for their only league defeat of the season on October 31. He has now been fined 5,000 marks ($2,964).

"When you don't respect the rules, there must be consequences," Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld told German soccer magazine Kicker in an interview.

Two other Bayern players, midfielders Stefan Effenberg and Mario Basler, were handed hefty fines last month.

Effenberg was punished after being caught driving while over the alcohol limit and Basler for spending too much time at the Oktoberfest beer festival!!

Only around 200 fans bothered to turn up as Mexico's Necaxa beat Estudiantes de Merida of Venezuela 2-0 in a qualifying match for next year's Libertadores Cup.

The supporters had Mexico City's 120,000-seat Azteca Stadium to themselves for the game which failed to arouse any interest.

Televisa, the Mexican television giant which owns both Necaxa and the Liberatdores rights for Mexico did not show the match live on television or broadcast it on any of its radio stations.

Mexican clubs are taking part for the second year but first have to play a qualifying round against two clubs from Venezuela, who apparently have been punished for their poor record in the competition proper.

Estudiantes, with ten points from five games, have already qualified and Necaxa's win, which was achieved with two first half goals from Pedro Pineda, put them second with six points and one game left.

Universidad de Los Andes (Venezuela) and Monterrey (Mexico) have four points and two games each left. The top two teams qualify for the next year's tournament proper.

There were more empty terraces as Palmeiras (Brazil) beat Olimpia (Paraguay) 2-0 in their Copa Mercosur semi-final first leg in Sao Paulo.

Only a small group of hardy Palmeirenses braved a quarter-to-ten evening kick-off and persistent rain to watch a match which was also shown live on television.

Two goals by midfielder Alex either side of half-time gave the Brazilian club a comfortable cushion in a competition which is made strictly for television.

The Mercosur, it is first year, features the top clubs from Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Chile, who take part by invitation. But several clubs have snubbed the competition, fielding reserve sides.

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Compiled by **GREECE** Soccer Weekly's A.D. Akratos

TEN-MAN AEK LOSE TO PAO IN THRILLER

AEK, who led 1-0 at halftime, were forced to play for most of the second half with 10 men after Dimitris Markos was shown a second yellow card for bringing down George Toursounides in the penalty area.

'We broke a longstanding tradition against AEK,' said PAO striker Zisis Vryzas.

AEK, who suffered their first defeat this season, had not lost to PAO in six years and now have 20 points after nine games.

The Athenian club, with "new" coach Takis Karagiozopoulos on the bench, seemed to have the match well in their grip with a well organised defence and string of deadly attacks on the break which finally bore fruit in the 40th minute when Demis Nikolaidis neutralised PAO's defence to drive the ball into the net.

PAO piled on the pressure from the very beginning of the second half losing a goal opportunity when a shot by Vrizas went wide in the 49th minute.

PAO's attacking play paid off in the 63rd minute when Olivares converted a penalty.

But not content with a draw and being one player up, PAO continued their attacking football. Olivares made it 2-1 in the 74th minute after a series of skilful one-touch passes which began in midfield.

AEK came close to an equaliser after a shot by Nikolaidis in the 83rd minute but his wicked shot hit the crossbar.

In the most dramatic game of the weekend a nine man Ionikos kept defending champions Olympiakos at bay for almos t the entire game before seccumbing to late goals. Ivic had given the Reds the least in the 35' but it was not till stoppage time that Georgatos managed to seal the win that despite its dominance Olympiakos was unsure of victory.

Another game was called off on the weekend, this time between Panionios aand OFI. Happily though, this time it was due to light failure and not crowd trouble that has marred the Greek game in recent weeks. The game will be replayed at a later date.

OLYMPIAKOS closed the gap with league leaders Panathinaikos and ∞∂∫ Athens by beating Ionikos Nikaia 2-0. Serb striker Ilya Ivic opened the score for the Piraeus club in 35th minute and

Grigoris Georgatos made it 2-0 in extra time.

Olympiakos could have wrapped up the game much earlier if only both scorers didn't miss penalties in the second half. Ivic's shot in 58th minute was saved by Ionikos keeper Pourliotopoulos and Georgatos hit the bar in the 76th.

Ionikos were left with nine players after Paolo Andrioli and Miloe Klaevic were sent off.

League-leaders Panathinaikos were held to a scoreless draw against last-placed Ethnikos Piraeus away on Sunday.

Despite the loss of two points, Panathinaikos retain the lead in the league with 22 points from nine games, followed by crosstown rivals ∞∂∫ and Olympiakos are third with 19 points but with a game in hand.

In Sunday's major upset, Ethnikos fended off attacks by Panathinaikos in a game played before 4,000 spectators in Piraeus.

With four key players sidelined because of injury, Panathinaikos besieged Ethnikos' area from kickoff to the 90th minute but luck did not favour them.

On three occasions the visitors cane close to scoring, but their shots went wide.

In the 83rd minute, Panathinaikos' Polish goalkeeper Jozef Wandzik dived to steal the ball from Da Silva Sousa who was ready to send the ball into the net.

LAST WEEKEND'S RESULTS:

Ethnikos	0	Panathinaikos	0
PAOK Thessaloniki	2	AEK Athens	1
Paniliakos	0	Veria	0
Iraklis	2	Kavala	2
Proodeftiki	0	Panelefsiniakos	1
Xanthi	2	Aris	0
Ethnikos Asteras	5	Apollon Athens	1
Olympiakos Piraeus	2	Ionikos	0

Panionios v OFI Postponed

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panathinaikos	9	7	1	1	19	9	22
AEK Athens	9	6	2	1	17	7	20
Xanthi	9	6	1	2	12	7	19
Olympiakos Piraeus+	7	5	1	1	21	5	16
Paniliakos Pyrgos	9	5	1	3	13	10	16
PAOK Thessaloniki+	8	4	2	2	10	9	14
Aris Thessaloniki	9	4	2	3	13	11	14
Ionikos Piraeus	8	4	1	3	17	11	13
Iraklis Thessaloniki	9	3	3	3	13	10	12
Kavala	9	3	2	4	18	23	11
Panionios Athens	8	3	1	4	18	14	10
OFI Heraklion	8	3	1	4	10	10	10
Panelefsiniakos	9	2	4	3	6	10	10
Ethnikos Asteras	9	3	1	5	13	17	10
Apollon Athens	9	1	3	5	12	24	6
Proodeftiki	9	1	3	5	9	16	1
Veria	9	0	4	5	1	12	4
Ethnikos Piraeus	9	0	3	6	2	18	3

I HEARD IT ON THE GRAPEVINE

Aris' new owner, Dimitris Kontominas, has developed a new marketing strategy for the team in which none of the current management is included...

AEK Supremo Dimitris Melissanidis is willing to talk with the management of EPO (Greek FA) in order to secure the services of Anghei Iordanescu. Since the "enforced" vacation by coach Stepanovic, AEK have been looking for a replacement and Iordanescu seems to be the one.

It is an open secret that EPO are disatisfied with Iordanescu's tactics of keeping his plans a close secret till the last possible moments (apparantly to minimise intereference by EPO!) and are seeking a showdown with the Romanian coach immediately after the game against Albania on Wednesday.

AEK supremo Dimitris Melissanidis has made his interest in Iordanescu public knowledge but will not confirm whether an approach has been made or not...

A sports gear manufacturer has shown interest in buying most of the stock options for the teams of Paniliakos and Ethnikos. EPO will investigate the offer, when it materialises, and will definitely be on its toes to avoid another ENIC - AEK fiasco...

AEK players were ready to smash the T.V. set in their hotel prior to their game with Ethnikos Asteras. The reason? The televised game was between PAOK-Olympiakos!...

G.S. Georgiadis is not even taking part in friendly games for Panathinaikos these days. and is starting to gather his stuff from Paiania for an early departure ...

The English team Tottenham Hotspur is eager to resume talks again with Panathinaikos for the acquisition of Nikos Liberopoulos. The new proposition offers well over 1 Billion drachmas($5 million) for the player and that figure seems to be just about right to prise him away from the Mediterranean...

Dimitris Melissanidis is thinking of opening up a "shoe shining parlor" outside "Nikos Goumas". This way the many friends of AEK can polish their shoes before they stick the boot in considering the teams recent displays...

Peter Oforique was trying very hard to make the management to believe him the the 17 day absence (without leave) from Olympiakos was not his fault! This from a player that is continuously discussing his desire to play in Italy as soon as possible....

After the match with Ajax Peter Oforique and his friend Kofee Abonsai (who plays for Panelefsiniakos) were spotted driving a VW GOLF and in the with the back seat full of beautiful women ...

On the other hand, Ilya Ivic was ready to explode after the match with Ajax because Bajevic had him "warming" the bench, despite the Reds losing the game by a couple of goals to nil...

Anghel Iordanescu does not even want to think that he is going to lose one of his assistants (Ziakos, Kourkounas, or Vamvakas). So he is pressuring EPO to finalize their contracts with the national team as quickly as possible. It seems however he should be spending more time worrying about his own contract...

Panathinaikos is going to start a monthly magazine about the team but whose prototype looks a lot like the one from Olympiakos ...

Some "bad mouths" are saying that the frequent trips that Gary Heilock is making to England don't have to do anything with his daughter being sick. It is said that the Panionios player is very bitter with his salary ...

Panathinaikos goalkeeper Antonis Nikopolidis, has decided to put behind him his "single" life and become "double" in 1999.

Vasilis Daniil was one of the very first patrons that tasted the food in the new Italian restaurant in Kifisia owned by Alexis Alexoudis. The verdict? We're not sure but he's been back three times already...

Panionios is looking to go as far north as Norway to get a center-back that is needed for the team.

Anghel Iordanescu told his peers that if the Greek National team wins in Tirana against tAlbania, Greece is as good as qualified for Euro 2000. Bold claims from the man who will probably be watching the finals on TV like most of the rest of us...

German great Felix Magath is reputed to have turned down a coaching position with AEK because he wants to coach in Germany. Better beer apparantly...

TWO SIDES OF CYPRUS FOOTBALL ON SHOW

All those fortunate enough to watch Apoel's thrilling 4-3 victory over champions Anorthosis on Saturday night will be talking about the match for some time to come. Few league games reach such heights of excitement.

The following day at Ammochostos stadium, fans were shown the other side of Cyprus football. Sendings off, violence, injuries, and a pitch invasion marred Salamina's 2-2 draw against Apollonas.

In Nicosia though the game featured all the positive qualities associated with the game. Passion, commitment, excitement and unpredictablity.

Anorthosis went in at half-time leading 3-1, but 12 minutes after the interval were trailing 4-3, Apoel scoring three-times in 10-minute spell.

Apoel's hero was Slovakian striker Robert Kochis who joined the club by accident in the summer. He had come as a replacement for Omonia's forward Rainer Rauffman, but when the German decided to stay in Cyprus he went to Apoel.

Kochis scored twice in five minutes at the start of the second half to restore parity. His first came from a glancing header and the second frompowerful shot inside the area.

Another foreigner, Marcello scored Apoel's other two goals, both from the penalty spot. He put his side in front in the 12th minute and scored thewinner in the 57th.

Yiotis Engomitis opened the scoring for Anorthosis before former Apoel player Vesco Michailovic added another two. He converted a penalty and a minute before half-time scored from 45 yards out, after spotting Apoel keeper Petrides off his line lobbing the ball into the net.

This was Anorthosis' first league defeat in 21 games, of which they had drawn only two. Apoel's new coach, Slobodan Vutsecovic has a good record against the champions. Last season, his side Ethnikos inflicted Anorthosis' first home defeat in four and a half years.

Anorthosis remain top of the league table, ahead of Apoel on goal difference.

Apollonas owed their point at Salamina to a controversial penalty, awarded in the third minute of injury time.

The penalty, given when Romanian forward Kirstea ran into a Salamina defender inside the area, sparked the first pitch invasion, by substitutes and officials of the home side. Police intervened, Salamina's Panayiotou was sent off, and Nikki Papavassiliou score from the penalty to make the score 2-2.

A minute later, Salamina's Kokos Elia said something to referee Karaiskakis and was shown the red card. He was restrained by team-mates from beating up the ref.

The sending off sparked the second pitch invasion, this time by fans. Police could not get crowd off the pitch, while the referee fled to the dressing rooms. He returned 25 minutes later to restart the game and blow the final whistle, a few seconds later.

Salamina coach Andreas Mouskallis was furious with the refereeing, saying he was considering resigning if the "refereeing fiasco continues".

Third-placed Omonia were held to a 1-1 draw at Paralimni with the home side playing the entire second half with 10 men after the sending off of Loizou.

They are equal on points with Ael who were held to a 2-2 draw by Alki in Limassol. Zamphir ensured a point for Alki with an injury time equaliser.

Aris also had to play the last 25 minutes of their 4-2 defeat by Evagoras - their seventh of the season - with nine men after the sendings-off of Demosthenous and Hadjiantoniou. Stevo Dragisic scored a hat-trick for Evagoras.

Aek's Xiourouppas hit four goals as his side crushed newly-promoted Doxa 7-0, the biggest league victory in the Larnaca side's brief history.

Finally in Nicosia, Olympiakos and Ethnikos drew 1-1.

Club Profile

AEK 1998-1999

GENERAL INFORMATION

Stadium: Nikos Goumas, Seats: 33,500 Phone: 25.11.352
Team Colors: Yellow-Black
President: Pantelis Nikolaou
Coach: Dragan Stepanovic
Assistant Coach: Stefan Muke
Captains: Atmatzidis, Nikolaidis, and Batista
Office Address: 3rd September 144 Phone: 82.24.666
Worth: 1.7 Billion Drachmas
Press: Nikos Katsaros
Trainer: Stefan Muke
Physical Therapist: Nikos Pantazis

STATISTICS

First Division: AEK has had 39 appearances, played 1266 games, 249 losses, 302 ties, 745 wins, 2397 goals against, and 1086 goals for.

First Scorer: It is not possible for a player in today's team to reach the record that Mimis Papaioannou has. With 233 goals he is the number one scorer of the team in the past, present and it looks for some time in the future!

First in Appearances: Once again Mimis Papaioannou has the record. His 480 appearances with the team of AEK looks like it will be another one to beat for a while.

Team Statistics: Although Stelios Manolas played for AEK for two decades and with his recent retirement he was not able to break Papaioannou's record. Manolas has 448 appearances with the team of AEK.

Player Statistics: One more appearance and Daniel Batista will reach 300. If that happens he will be the first foreign player in Greece that achieves this record unless Savefski goes there first since he needs only three more.

Donis needs 1 goal to have 40.

TRADING

Came: Markos, Zikos, Lakis, Zouboulis, Ilief, and Babounski **Left:** Marcelo, Kostis, Manolas, Koutoulas, and Maxairidis Renewed Contract: Kasapis, Kostenoglou, Batista, and Nikolaidis.

HONOURS:

Championships: 9
Doubles: 2
Cups: 10 (Finalist 14 times)

AEK got a good "lift" this past summer. A new coach, six new players, five old players left the club. and which leaves a big question mark for this year's championship.

The new arrivals will definitely help but the losses of Manolas and Kostis will certainly make a difference, especially in light of coach Stepanovic been given a "holiday" by the board with barely a quarter of the season gone.

President: Lakis Nikolaou
Coach: Unknown

Compiled by Soccer Weekly's Joe Russo

ITALY

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SEVEN DAYS IN ITALIA

Ciro Ferrara scored a 109th minute equalizer as league champions Juventus twice came from behind to draw 2-2 at Venezia and move into the quarter-finals of the Italian Cup mid-week.

Ferrara, playing only his third match after returning from a eight month lay-off with a broken leg, crashed home a long range shot minutes after Venezia had taken a 2-1 lead from the penalty spot through ex-Juve defender Gianluca Luppi.

The match had ended 1-1 after 90 minutes, forcing the two sides into extra time.

Venezia, who had managed a 1-1 draw in Turin in the first leg, had taken a 1-0 lead through new Brazilian signing Tuta just two minutes from the end of the 90.

But within seconds Juventus won a penalty from which Uruguayan striker Daniel Fonseca levelled the scores.

Luppi's spot kick, given for a foul on inspired Venezia forward Fabian Valtolino, appeared to have swung the tie the home side's way again before Ferrara scored his equalizer.

Fiorentina has appealed against its exclusion from the UEFA Cup, European soccer's governing body said. The appeal was lodged on Wednesday and UEFA's Appeals Body met on Sunday in Geneva.

The Italian Serie A leaders were kicked out of the cup at the weekend as punishment for crowd trouble at a second round second leg tie against Switzerland's Grasshoppers of Zurich last week.

The match, played in the southern city of Salerno as a result of an earlier ban for violence after a match in Florence, was abandoned at half-time after a fan threw a firecracker onto the pitch, injuring the fourth official.

Fiorentina have appealed against the UEFA ban, blaming a local Salernitana fan for the incident and saying the device was thrown at their players and not the official.

Salernitana and Fiorentina fans had clashed last month at a Serie A match between their clubs in Florence.

Serie A Round Nine

Empoli	2	Cagliari	1
Inter	3	Sampdoria	0
Parma	4	Udinese	1
Piacenza	4	Fiorentina	2
Roma	2	Juventus	0
Salernitana	2	Perugia	0
Venezia	2	Lazio	0
Vicenza	0	Bologna	4

Fiorentina's Luna (L) and Antonioni after the UEFA decision.

Roberto Baggio has told his international rival Alessandro Del Piero not to rush back from injury.

Del Piero will be out for five months after damaging knee ligaments last weekend and Baggio, who competed with him for a place in Italy's team at the World Cup, was sympathetic.

"I feel great disappointment and also great solidarity for Alex," said Baggio, whose own career has had its share of injury torment.

"No-one more than me can understand what he's going through at the moment. The only advice I could give him would be to not to rush things. I tried to take things too quickly once and I lost two years.

"It's better if he just concentrates on making a good recovery."

Baggio was due to make his own return from injury on Wednesday afternoon, after nearly two months out with tendon trouble.

Polish prosecutors said on Thursday they had identified a man suspected of injuring Parma's Dino Baggio during a UEFA Cup game last month in Krakow.

Baggio said he was struck in the head by a knife thrown from the crowd during the Oct. 20, UEFA Cup second round first leg, in which Parma drew 1-1 with Wisla Krakow. Wisla lost 2-1 to Parma in Italy.

"We have a suspect...We will soon ask the court to press charges against the man and order his arrest," Malgorzata Wilkosz-Sliwa, spokeswoman of the prosecutors' office in Krakow, told Reuters.

A sore knee kept Ronaldo out of Inter Milan's Sunday Serie A match against Sampdoria, the sixth league league game in nine rounds he has missed.

"We hope to have him back to action for the next round[against Fiorentina on November 22]," Dr. Piero Volpi said. "Ronaldo will devote more to swimming than to soccer in the next few days, to recover his form."

Seemingly unable to recover his form since Brazil's loss in the World Cup final — and troubled by tendinitis in both knees — Ronaldo has played little and sporadically this season.

He suffered the latest injury, a bruised left knee, in the recent league match against AC Milan.

Ronaldo scored Inter's opening goal in a 2-2 draw before limping off the field at the end of the first half.

Despite his infrequent appearances, Ronaldo has scored three goals in as many league games.

Inter coach Gigi Simoni said the team must learn to live without Ronaldo, a key to last season's UEFA Cup title and second place in the Serie A.

"We have been off to an unlucky season start. But we must learn to live with injuries, and without Ronaldo. His absence must not be an alibi. We must win without him, while waiting for his comeback," Simoni said.

Inter Milan striker Nicola Ventola has withdrawn from the Italy squad to play Spain in a friendly tomorrow night (Wed).

He injured his right knee in the 3-0 league victory over Sampdoria on Sunday.

Uncapped Ventola ruptured ligaments in the same knee just over a year ago and was out for six months.

Brazilian Paolo Sergio and France's Vincent Candela both scored on Sunday as AS Roma backed up its recent war of words with Juventus by beating the Italian champion 2-0 at the Olympic Stadium.

Serie A leader Fiorentina, meanwhile, went down 4-2 at surprising Piacenza, its third successive road defeat.

The result left Roma in second place just a point behind Fiorentina and ahead of Juventus on goal difference.

Speaking just minutes after Juve's second defeat of the season, general manager Roberto Bettega reacted angrily to Roma manager Zdenek Zeman's pre-match claim that Juventus had lost its old style and panache.

"Zeman cannot speak about the Juventus style," said Bettega, "He has never been a part of our world."

It was the latest exchange in a feud that started last season with a controversial Juve victory and continued into the summer with Zeman's widely-published allegations that the champions might have used performance enhancing substances.

The claims led to a full-scale legal inquiry into Juventus's physical training methods.

In truth, Sunday's was a hollow victory for Zeman: Juventus Coach Marcello Lippi was serving a suspension and sat out the match in the stands while Alessandro Del Piero, one of the players Zeman had targeted, was absent injured.

On the pitch, Juventus reacted impressively to the loss of Del Piero and might have taken the lead in the third minute when Edgar Davids burst through the center of the Roma defence only to shoot weakly into the arms of Antonio Chimenti.

On the half-hour, Angelo Peruzzi was forced to tip a 20-meter drive from Marco Delvecchio over the bar, but there was little he could do in the 44th minute about Sergio's opener.

Ciro Ferrara fouled Francesco Totti 25 meters from goal, and the Italy international quickly chipped Juve's defensive wall to find the unmarked Sergio, who lobbed the ball over Peruzzi.

After the break, Juventus sent on Didier Deschamps and ex-Roma player Daniel Fonseca — both far from full fitness — but lost Paolo Montero, sent-off for elbowing Sergio.

Fonseca was desperately unlucky in the 77th minute when his freekick beat Chimenti, but not the post.

Candela condemned Juve to its first defeat at Roma since 1995 with a solo effort in the 87th, dribbling past Alessandro Birindelli and beating Peruzzi at his near post.

Coach Giovanni Trapattoni had no excuses after Fiorentina's third successive away defeat, blaming "below par performances" from several key players.

The visitors reacted to Piacenza's early strikes from Massimo Rastrelli and Simone Inzaghi with penalties from Rui Costa and Edmundo, but surrendered to second-half strikes from Paolo Cristallini and Giampietro Piovani.

After an indifferent start to the season, Parma moved into fourth-place courtesy of a Hernan Crespo hat-trick in its impressive 4-1 victory over Udinese at the Tardini.

Inter Milan, which had not won in four successive matches, climbed four places to sixth in the table with a 3-0 home win over Sampdoria that included two Youri Djorkaeff penalties in the opening 17 minutes.

Chilean Ivan Zamorano added a late third, but the margin of victory was marred by injury to Nicola Ventola.

Newly promoted Venezia claimed its first Serie A victory in 30 years with a 2-0 home win over Lazio at the Sant'Elena ground; The visitors had Fernando Couto sent off.

Former Lazio favorite Giuseppe Signori showed glimpses of his old goal-scoring prowess with a hat-trick in Bologna's impressive 4-0 victory at Vicenza.

Round Ten

BOLOGNA V PERUGIA
CAGLIARI V PARMA
FIORENTINA V INTER
JUVENTUS V EMPOLI
MILAN V LAZIO
ROMA V BARI
SALERNITANA V VENEZIA
SAMPDORIA V VICENZA
UDINESE V PIACENZA

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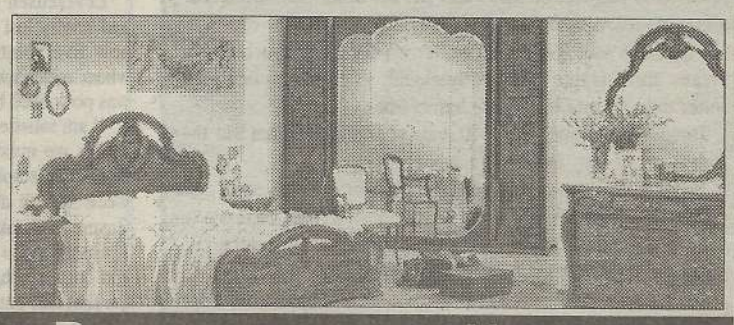

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Compiled by EUROPE Soccer Weekly

KOEPKE ON THE LOOSE

French league-leaders Marseille agreed to let veteran goalkeeper Andreas Koepke leave the club after the former German international fell out with fiery coach Rolland Courbis.

The 36-year-old, who was a key member of the German side that won Euro '96, will be allowed to train with the team until he finds another club.

His next employers could be 1997 European Cup winners Borussia Dortmund or Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers, who lost first choice keeper Lionel Charbonnier for the season last week with a knee ligament injury.

"It's an amicable parting between us and Koepke," Marseille president Michel Roussier told AFP. "Andreas will be able to train with the squad until he finds another club," he added.

Koepke, who failed to reproduce his Euro 96 heroics in this year's World Cup, was at odds with Courbis over his selection policy and their relationship worsened last Friday when a heated exchange followed Courbis'decision to use Stephane Porato against Monaco.

"With Rolland Courbis extending his contract for another season I have to leave as soon as possible. I'm waiting for a club to show interest in me to give a new direction to my career," Koepke said.

Don't be surprised to see the classy German keeper in Scotland before too long — Rangers may have him in as cover for their injured keeper.

Real Madrid defender Fernando Hierro will be out of action for the next three weeks after tearing a thigh muscle, the club said.

The influential centre-back will miss the vital Champions' League game against Inter Milan on November 25, as well as tough first division games against Celta Vigo and Valencia and Spain's international friendly with Italy on November 18.

Hierro, who suffered the injury in Sunday's league game against Alaves, is also a doubt for the World Club Championship clash with Vasco de Gama of Brazil on December 1.

He joins Christian Karembeu on the sidelines, after the French utility player was ruled out for two months following a knee injury picked up in training.

Romanian-clubs Steaua and Dinamo Bucharest have put aside 50 years of bitter rivalry and agreed to stop play during future matches between each other if violence breaks out in the crowd.

Steaua's manager Emeric Ienei said that he and Dinamo coach Cornel Dinu believed the unprecedented pact was the only way to curb rising violence in Romanian soccer.

"Players from both sides will immediately cease play in the event of any hooligan act in the stands," Ienei said. "The players will stop and kick practice balls to each other until all acts of aggression and provocative slogans cease."

Romania's national team earlier this year moved its last World Cup warm-up match from Bucharest 35 miles north to Ploiesti in protest against fans' violent behavior and obscene slogans.

Steaua, linked to Romania's military under communism, and Dinamo, controlled by the interior ministry, have had five decades of tense relations on and off the field. Both sides resorted to political pressure and the use of influential personalities to secure victory.

Tuesday's pact was clinched after a 1-1 derby draw between Steaua and Dinamo over the weekend, when riot police used water cannons and tear gas to halt clashes.

Dinamo fans vandalized 500 seats at Steaua stadium but the club agreed to pay for the damage.

Romanian fans now routinely engage in street brawls and smash shop and car windows. In the most serious instance to date, Dinamo fans, known as the "Red Dogs," set fire to part of Steaua stadium last year, destroying 800 seats.

"Nobody in Romania seems interested in stopping violence in sport," the daily Adevarul wrote.

"The Romanian Soccer Federation and the Professional Soccer League have taken no effective measures to curb the violence. Nor do clubs presidents, afraid of losing their supporters."

ZARAGOZA OUT OF SPANISH CUP

Sporting Gijon striker Takis Gonias scored a dramatic last-gasp equalizer to send Real Zaragoza crashing out of the Spanish Cup on a dismal night for first division sides midweek.

Zaragoza, currently riding high in sixth place in the Primera Liga, was one of five top flight sides to be bundled out of the competition by lower division teams at the third round stage.

And third division San Sebastian de los Reyes was fighting to make it six as they were playing extra-time against Tenerife.

Salamanca, Alaves, Oviedo and Extremadura were the other big name clubs to fall on Wednesday, as only Valladolid, Villarreal, Racing Santander and Deportivo Coruna of the so-called elite made it through in the final round before the clubs involved in Europe enter the comeptition.

Real Zaragoza had looked to be on their way to a place in the fourth round draw as they led 2-0, and 3-1 on aggregate, after 70 minutes thanks to goals from Savo Milosevic and Jamelli.

But Russian striker Dmitri Tcheryshev got the second division strugglers back into contention on 74 minutes, capitalising on a mistake from Spanish international defender Paco Jemez to fire past keeper Otto Konrad.

And Zaragoza were made to pay for their casual approach to the game in the 90th minute as defender Takis squeezed in a well struck free kick to send the visiting Gijon fans into raptures.

Oviedo, who came from behind to beat Barcelona in the Spanish league on Sunday, had no such luck against Badajoz as they suffered a 1-0 home defeat to go down 4-1 on aggregate.

Salamanca were also comprehensively outplayed, losing 2-0 to Sevilla after a goalless first leg.

Alaves followed the same route out of the competition as Zaragoza as they went down on the away goals rule after their tie with Las Palmas finished 2-2 on the night and on aggregate.

And Extremadura failed a test of nerve as they were beaten 4-1 on penalties by third division Levante.

Midfielder Lars Ricken and Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat struck in the 11th and 35 minutes for the 1997 European champions, now ninth in the 18-strong table.

Louis van Gaal has been under attack as Barcelona coach after a series of setbacks in the last week.

Van Gaal had his position questioned following defeats by Bayern Munich in the European Champions' League and Oviedo in the Spanish first division.

Now a trip to Almeria for a confidence-boosting friendly against Swedish side Helsingborg backfired.

A Barcelona team packed with eight internationals made it three successive losses as they went 2-0 down inside 12 minutes and failed to respond.

Van Gaal then found himself buffeted once more as the team were forced to go looking for a hotel in Almeria after fog ruled out the departure of their return flight.

Emmanuel Petit

The unseasonably bad weather had still not lifted by Wednesday morning, leaving the squad kicking their heels.

A series of opinion polls and editorials in the Catalan newspapers have called for the coach's head as Barcelona all but conceded their chances of qualifying for the European Cup quarterfinals and then missed the opportunity to go top of the league. See the Cruyff story on the following pages.

France's Football magazine named 50 players as candidates for its prestigious European Footballer of the Year award, which it will give out next month.

World champion France has eight players nominated, including gifted Juventus midfielder Zinedine Zidane, who finished third in the running for the award last year and is one of the chief candidates to succeed 1997 winner Ronaldo.

Liverpool teenager Michael Owen, arguably the major revelation of this year's World Cup finals, is one of four Englishmen on the list that also includes Tony Adams, captain of Arsenal's double-winning side.

Arsenal's Dutchmen Dennis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars, Emmanuel Petit of France and England goalkeeper David Seaman are also on the list.

But the club most represented are European champion Real Madrid with seven, including Yugoslav Predrag Mijatovic, who was second last year and scored the winning goal in the European Cup final against Juventus in May.

South America is represented by nine players, including Italy-based Argentines Gabriel Batistuta and Ariel Ortega and Chilean duo Ivan Zamorano and Marcelo Salas.

Inter Milan's Ronaldo is one of four Brazilians. The others are Real Madrid left back Roberto Carlos, Barcelona's Rivaldo and Denilson, the world's most expensive player who is now with Spain's Real Betis.

Hidetoshi Nakata, Japan's brilliant playmaker now with Perugia of Italy, gives Asia a rare entry on the list, while Ajax Amsterdam's Nigerian Sunday Oliseh is the only African candidate for a trophy won in 1995 by Liberia's George Weah.

HERTHA ON BAYERN'S TRAIL

A second-half goal from Bayer Leverkusen's Dutch striker Erik Meijer spoiled Hertha Berlin's perfect home record in the German first division midweek.

Meijer headed home from a Stefan Beinlich free kick in the 73rd minute to give the visitors, yet to lose an away match this season, a 1-0 win.

Hertha, who had won all their previous five matches at the Olympic stadium, came close to levelling when a shot from inside the penalty area by Cameroon striker Alphonse Tchami went just wide in the 82nd minute.

Leverkusen recaptured the second place they had briefly lost after Tuesday's two games and are now five points behind leaders Bayern Munich, whose match away to Borussia Moenchengladbach, was postponed because of a waterlogged pitch.

"I am satisfied with the result but there are many things we must still improve," said Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum, who admitted earlier this week that he did not believe his men could stop Bayern from taking the title.

Hertha, who rejoined the top flight last season and are now chasing a place in Europe, dominated the first half but made few clear chances.

"We should have scored before the break but in the second half Leverkusen showed their class and put us under pressure," said Hertha coach Juergen Roeber, whose team lies seventh. "Their victory was a deserved one."

Ambitious VfB Stuttgart slumped to their fourth defeat of the season when they fell 2-1 at home to VfL Wolfsburg with Polish striker Andrzej Juskowiak hitting the winner two minutes from time.

Last season's Cup winners' Cup finalists, now a modest 10th, opened the scoring through Nigerian striker Jonathan Akpoborie in the 22nd minute but saw striker Roy Praeger level for the visitors 14 minutes later.

Borussia Dortmund, recovering from a disastrous start to the season, scored twice in the first-half to overcome Ruhr Valley neighbours MSV Duisburg, who were reduced to 10 men when midfielder Stefan Emmerling was sent off for a second

Austria's joint-bid with Hungary to host the 2004 European Championship finals should be taken "very seriously," Beppo Mauhart, the president of the Austrian F.A., said.

Austria and their Hungarian neighbours have launched a joint bid to host the event under the slogan: "Danube Games. Two Countries, One Goal."

The two other candidates to declare an interest are Spain and Portugal.

"I'm convinced we have become serious candidates and that we are no longer outsiders," said Mauhart at a news conference.

"At the beginning of July, I thought we wouldn't have a chance. But after a successful presentation in Geneva yesterday, I now feel we are in the front row with the others."

Austria and Hungary presented their joint bid to a European soccer commission in Switzerland on Tuesday, as did Spain and their Iberian rivals Portugal.

"We are just as strong as the other two," said Mauhart.

"Our presentation was very professional, we got positive feedback."

Miniature models of all 10 stadiums planned to be used in the competition — five in each country — were also shown during the presentation.

The current plan is for the Austrian cities of Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Graz and St.Poelten to stage matches while the Hungarians would use two stadiums in Budapest and others in Gyoer, Debrecen and Szekesfehevar.

The two countries on the banks of the Danube river, which once formed the Austro-Hungarian Empire, are especially focusing on the political and historical aspects of their bid.

Heinz Palme, the bid's project manager, said: "We succeeded in demonstrating we are a serious candidate even though we have a joint bid."

But he admitted: "Spain are, however, still favourites."

But he also said that while Spain had the larger stadiums, Austria and Hungary had the better arguments considering their roles at the heart of a new Europe.

UEFA will be sending their inspection teams to visit all candidates next March with the hosts being announced in July next year.

Compiled by **EUROPE** Soccer Weekly

ST ALBANS BOY DEBUTS FOR YUGOSLAVIA

Victorian keeper Sasa Ilic has been selected for his parents' country Yugoslavia, for Euro 2000 Group 8 qualifier with Republic of Ireland tomorrow night.

Goalkeepers: Ivica Kralj (Porto), Nikola Damjanac (Partizan Belgrade), Sasa Ilic (Charlton Athletic)

Defenders: Goran Djorovic (Celta Vigo), Sinisa Mihajlovic (Lazio), Miroslav Djukic (Valencia), Nisa Saveljic (Bordeaux), Slobodan Komljenovic (Duisburg)

Midfielders: Slavisa Jokanovic (Tenerife), Dragan Stojkovic (Nagoya), Vladimir Jugovic (A. Madrid), Dejan Stankovic (Lazio), Jovan Stankovic (Real Mallorca), Ljubinko Drulovic (Porto), Nenad Grozdic (Obilic), Djordje Tomic (P.Belgrade)

Forwards: Predrag Mijatovic (Real Madrid), Savo Milossevic (Real Zaragoza), Darko Kovacevic (Real Sociedad), Sasa Kovacevic (Obilic).

Special security measures will be implemented for tomorrow's friendly international between Germany and the Netherlands.

Some 1,000 security personnel from both countries will be on duty in and around the Gelsenkirchen stadium for the match, said Gelsenkirchen police chief Ulrich Grzella.

A French policeman was brutally beaten up by German hooligans during the World Cup last June in France. Dutch supporters have also caused serious trouble in the past.

Gelsenkirchen is less than an hour's drive from the Dutch border and some 10,000 Dutch fans are expected for the game.

Dutch squad for a friendly with Germany to be played in Gelsenkirchen, Germany tomorrow.

Goalkeepers: Edwin van der Sar (Ajax), Oscar Moens (Alkmaar)

Defenders: Frank de Boer (Ajax), Mark van Hintum (Vitesse Arnhem), Michael Reiziger (Barcelona), Jaap Stam (Manchester United), Kees van Wonderen (Feyenoord)

Midfielders: Phillip Cocu (Barcelona), Edgar Davids (Juventus), Clarence Seedorf (Real Madrid), Aron Winter (Inter Milan)

Forwards: Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenal), Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona), Michael Mols (FC Utrecht), Ruud van Nistelrooy (PSV Eindhoven), Marc Overmars (Arsenal), Jeffrey Talan (Heerenveen), Peter van Vossen (Feyenoord)

Russia's tax police are taking legal action against Russian Football Union (RFU) president Vyacheslav Koloskov after discovering the RFU possessed two illegal Swiss bank accounts, local media reported.

Both accounts, opened in 1995 without a licence from the Russian Central Bank, contained funds received by the RFU when Russia played abroad.

They were privately run by Koloskov and his deputy Alexander Tukmanov.

In 1996 the RFU received 3.6 million Swiss francs (around $2.8 million) for Russia's involvement in the Euro '96 finals in England, and 846,543 Swiss francs (around $1.4 million) for the 1994 World Cup in America.

The bulk of these payments was lodged in Switzerland, said Russian daily Novye Izvestia.

In 1995 and 1996 the RFU chief handed over management of the accounts to an unspecified western firm.

After tax police discovered the accounts Koloskov decided not to renew the trust agreement with the western firm and brought three million Swiss francs back to Russia.

Nevertheless, the tax police has called on Moscow's prosecutor's office to start legal proceedings against him.

German first division club Eintracht Frankfurt has been shopping for one striker but might sign three.

Frenchman Anthony Bancarel, Norwegian Kjell Kaasa and Moldovan Sergei Slescenko all impressed during a recent trial, club manager Gernot Rohr said on Thursday.

"Financially, we could manage the three," he said.

Bancarel and Kaasa, previously with French second division Guingamp and Norwegian side Valerenga respectively, are available on free transfers while the transfer fee for former Zenit St. Petersburg player Slecscenko "is reasonable," Rohr said.

Eintracht, which rejoined the top flight this season and is currently 12th in the 18-team division, needs a striker to replace Chinese Yang Chen.

He leaves next week for the Asian Games in Bangkok and will be unavailable until after the German season's midwinter break.

Polish champions Wisla Krakow said it would fight a one-year ban from European competition, calling it unfair and too harsh.

UEFA on Friday banned Wisla from European club competition after a supporter threw a metal object, believed to have been a knife, at Parma's Dino Baggio during a UEFA Cup clash in Krakow last month.

Baggio was struck on the head and had to leave the pitch. He returned after receiving five stitches to the wound.

"Wisla cannot take part in UEFA competitions in the first year they qualify for European club play over the next five seasons," said Tomasz Jagodzinski, a spokesman for the Polish Football Association (PZPN).

But if Wisla qualified for Europe for a second time during the next five years they would be allowed to compete.

Wisla president Ludwik Mietta-Mikolajewicz told private television TVN that the club would appeal against the ban.

"I am convinced we will do everything to try to change UEFA's decision," he said.

"This decision is too harsh...The entire club, football team and its owners cannot shoulder the responsibility for the actions of one...idiot."

The PZPN faces the prospect of not having any clubs in next season's Champions' League competition. Wisla, beaten on aggregate by Parma in their second leg tie, have opened a seven-point lead in the Polish first division.

"Polish football lost as a whole. We will not be able to participate in next year's Champions' League competition if Wisla retain their league title," said Jagodzinski.

Krakow police on Friday issued an arrest warrant for a 19-year-old who allegedly threw the metal object at Baggio.

Portuguese squad selected for a friendly with Israel to be played in Senubal, Portugal, tomorrow (Nov. 18)

Goalkeepers: Vitor Baia (Barcelona), Pedro Espinha (Vitoria Guimaraes)

Defenders: Abel Xavier (PSV Eindhoven), Fernando Couto (Lazio), Paulo Madeira (Benfica), Dimas (Fenerbahce), Litos (Boavista), Beto (Sporting Lisbon)

Midfielders: Paulinho Santos (Porto), Paulo Bento (Oviedo), Rui Costa (Fiorentina), Paulo Sousa (Inter Milan), Sergio Conceicao (Lazio), Costinha (Monaco), Dani (Ajax), Luis Figo (Barcelona), Simao Sabrosa (Sporting Lisbon)

Forwards: Pauleta (Deportivo Coruna), Sa Pinto (Real Sociedad), Jorge Couto (Boavista)

CRUYFF SLAMS VAN GAAL

Dutch legend Johan Cruyff has launched his most virulent attack yet on his compatriot and current Barcelona coach Louis van Gaal.

Cruyff made his latest criticisms in the wake of Barcelona's recent defeats in both the Spanish league to Oviedo and Champions' League to Bayern Munich.

"It's a street without an end. Van Gaal does not know where he is going," Cruyff said at a press conference.

"His system is neither attacking nor counter-attacking. His team is 11 individuals but they are not playing together in any respect. The technical staff have done nothing for a year-and-a-half."

Van Gaal has been under scrutiny from both the Spanish media and the Catalan club supporters for some time.

However, Barcelona's recent Champions' League defeat in their own Nou Camp stadium to Bayern Munich has increased the pressure.

Cruyff reiterated the widely held view in Spain that van Gaal has placed too much reliance on his fellow Dutchmen, six of whom are in the first team squad.

"Van Gaal has committed many errors not because he is stupid but because he does not know the club. He's lost the base I established and does not have the affection of the Catalan players."

"I am Dutch and I signed Koeman and Witschige but never in my life did I play six or seven Dutch players. You can imagine the outcry if eight Spaniards were to turn out for Ajax."

Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho included five uncapped players in his squad of 18 announced on Friday to face Italy in a friendly in Salerno tomorrow (Nov 18).

Injuries ruled out Athletic Bilbao defender Rafael Alkorta and his Real Madrid counterpart Fernando Hierro, and it was no surprise that Mallorca's Marcelino Elena was called up for the first time.

Camacho has also opted to try the midfield duo of Atletico Madrid's Juan Carlos Valeron and Espanyol's Ivan Helguera rather than include more orthodox defenders.

Celta Vigo's Juan Sanchez and Mallorca's Dani Garcia are rewarded for their outstanding early season form in attack for their clubs and look set to get their first caps.

Barcelona's Luis Enrique Martinez was left out because of injury but a more surprising ommission is Atletico Madrid's Kiko Narvaez.

Illustrating the major debating point in Spanish soccer at the moment, the influence of foreign players at the big clubs, Barcelona and Real Madrid have both contributed only one player apiece to Camacho's squad.

Goalkeepers: Santiago Canizares (Valencia), Toni Jimenez (Espanyol) Defenders: Agustin Aranzabal (Real Sociedad), Sergi Barjuan (Barcelona), Paco Jemez (Real Zaragoza), Michel Salgado (Celta Vigo), Marcelino Elena (Mallorca)

Midfiedlers: Bittor Alkiza (Athletic Bilbao), Francisco De Pedro (Real Sociedad), Vicente Engonga (Mallorca), Ivan Helguera (Espanyol), Jordi Lardin (Atletico Madrid), Juan Carlos Valeron (Atletico Madrid)

Strikers: Joseba Etxeberria (Athletic Bilbao), Ismael Urzaiz (Athletic Bilbao), Dani Garcia (Mallorca) Raul Gonzalez (Real Madrid), Juan Sanchez (Celta Vigo).

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Compiled by **EUROPE** Soccer Weekly

BUNDESLIGA

A second-half goal from Egyptian defender Hany Ramzy gave champion Kaiserslautern a 1-0 win at struggling Werder Bremen in the German first-division.

Ramzy, who joined Kaiserslautern from Bremen this season, headed home from a Martin Wagner cross in the 75th minute, allowing the southwesterners to record their fourth consecutive victory.

Bremen, which has not won in its Weser stadium for over a year, hoped for a draw when defender Jens Todt beat Kaiserslautern 'keeper Andreas Reinke with a header in the 86th minute. But the goal was ruled offside.

Seconds later, Bremen's Swiss defender, Jens Todt, hit the post from close range.

Victory allowed Kaiserslautern to move two places up to second, at least provisionally.

It was four points behind leader Bayern Munich, which entertains VfB Stuttgart on Saturday.

Friday's match was a special occasion for Kaiserslautern coach Otto Rehhagel, who lifted Bremen from nowhere to two league titles and victory in the 1992 Cup winners' Cup during his 14-year spell there, from 1981 to 1995.

In the night's other game, bottom-placed Borussia Moenchengladbach ended an embarrassing series of six defeats in a row by managing a 1-1 draw at Hansa Rostock.

The first match of new Moenchengladbach coach Rainer Bonhof, who replaced sacked Friedel Rausch, started in promising fashion when midfielder Karlheinz Pflipsen opened the scoring for the visitors from inside the penalty area in the 35th minute.

But Rostock's Polish midfielder Slawomir Majak leveled with a header six minutes into the second half.

Moenchengladbach, which won five German titles and lifted the UEFA Cup twice in the 1970s, stayed last but moved just one point behind 17th-place Bremen.

Brazilian striker Elber helped German championship leader Bayern Munich show its supremacy Saturday by taming VfB Stuttgart 2-0.

A fine pass by Elber allowed midfielder Stefan Effenberg to put the home side in front by beating goalkeeper Franz Wohlfahrt from close range three minutes into the second half.

Elber then set up Iranian striker Ali Daei, who raced into the box unchallenged to seal Bayern's victory in the dying moments.

The gifted Brazilian, fined by his bosses this week for collecting too many yellow cards, was outstanding and deserved a goal himself.

He was deprived one in the 38th minute for an offside that did not look obvious on a television replay. In the 49th minute he shouted for a penalty after being brought down in the box by Stuttgart defender Timo Rost.

Bayern, eager to recapture the title it lost to Kaiserslautern last May, are five points clear of second-placed Bayer Leverkusen with a game in hand.

"We controlled the game and earned plenty of clear chances," said Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld. "We should have taken the lead earlier but I'm satisfied with both the result and the way we achieved it."

Leverkusen was equally impressive, scoring three times in the opening 21 minutes to crush Nuremberg 3-0.

Its hero was Dutch striker Erik Meijer, who showed his side the way by opening the scoring in the fifth minute. Then he set up Brazilian Emerson and fellow midfielder Carsten Ramelow for Leverkusen's other goals in the 15th and 21st minutes, respectively.

"After going 3-0 up, the players took it easy but I'm not complaining," said Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum. "We scored plenty of goals and did not concede any. That's perfect."

Borussia Dortmund, recovering from a disastrous start to the season, boosted its morale with a 3-0 victory over Schalke 04 in a tense Ruhr Valley derby.

Dutch defender Alfred Nijhuis showed the composure of a seasoned striker to give Dortmund the lead after 14 minutes.

Rainer Bonhof (middle)

Seconds before the break, the home side earned a penalty for a foul by Dutch defender Marco van Hoogdalem on Dortmund's Bosnian midfielder Sergei Barbarez.

Midfielder Thomas Haessler, back in the first team after several unhappy weeks on the bench, converted it.

Hamburg misses a penalty on the weekend.

German midfielder Andreas Moeller put the issue beyond doubt seven minutes from time.

Dortmund, which has been through hard times since their 1997 European Cup triumph, moved sixth "We deserved to win, even if we were lucky to do it by 3-0," said Dortmund coach Michael Skibbe. "It was an interesting, hard-fought derby."

Schalke, 1997 UEFA Cup champions, has now gone seven matches without victory and are a miserable 15th.

Leading scorers in the German first division after Saturday's matches:
9 - Bernhard Winkler (TSV 1860 Munich)
8 - Elber (Bayern Munich), Olaf Marschall (Kaiserslautern)
7 - Ulf Kirsten (Bayer Leverkusen), Toni Polster (Borussia Moenchengladbach)
6 - Andrzej Juskowiak (VfL Wolfsburg), Igor Pamic (Hansa Rostock), Michael Preetz (Hertha Berlin)
5 - Jonathan Akpoborie (VfB Stuttgart), Sasa Ciric, Pavel Kuka (both Nuremberg), Stefan Effenberg (Bayern Munich)

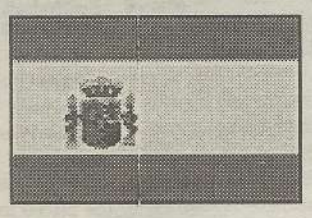
REAL BEATEN BY CELTA VIGO

Celta Vigo beat Real Madrid in the Santiago Bernabeu stadium for the first time in 50 years on Saturday to move into first place in the Spanish league.

The 2-1 win left the Galician club still unbeaten this season and with 20 points.

Real, which saw Croat international Davor Suker miss a late penalty, slipped to third with 18 points.

Brazilian World Cup defender Roberto Carlos scored for Real but he also made two errors that allowed Celta to score, the first coming after 21 minutes when he brought down Celta's French international midfielder Claude Makelele. Bulgarian sharpshooter Lubo Penev converted the penalty for his fourth goal of the season.



A few minutes later Real's Fernando Morientes was brought down in a similar fashion by Celta defender Francisco Caceres but the referee waved play on.

Celta got its second goal eight minutes after the break after Roberto Carlos left Celta's Valeri Karpin free to roam down the wing and an unmarked Makelele headed in a cross.

Real struggled to break down Celta's solid back four until Suker came on for Morientes after 60 minutes.

Two minutes later Roberto Carlos pulled a goal back with one of his bullet-like free kicks from outside the penalty area.

Real Madrid had a great chance to equalize after 77 minutes when Michel Salgado brought down Savio in the penalty area but Suker blasted the spot kick against the post.

PETIT IN DOUBT

Emmanuel Petit will miss Arsenal's European Champions League return game against Lens in France on November 25 after UEFA ruled on a mix-up surrounding a booking against Dynamo Kiev.

Italian referee Piero Ceccarini originally booked Nigel Winterburn for a foul on Serhiy Rebrov but the UEFAobserver in the stand advised later that French international Petit should have been the player yellow carded.

As he was booked earlier in the competition, Petit is now suspended for the Lens game.

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger, who revealed the development on Saturday, also said that Dennis Bergkamp would miss the Netherlands' international against Germany on Wednesday.

"He was not even fit enough to take a fitness test this morning," said Wenger explaining Bergkamp's absence from the Arsenal team which drew 0-0 with north London rivals Tottenham Hotspur at Highbury.

Wenger added: "He has an ankle and back injuries and while I am hoping he will be fit to play against Lens, he won't be ready in time to play for the Dutch against Germany next week."

Bergkamp... still not fit, according to Wenger.

17 YEAR OLD DEBUTS

Hungary have called up 17-year-old striker Imre Szabics for their friendly against Switzerland on November 18 in Budapest.

Szabics has impressed in recent weeks for Ferencvaros but he has played just eight full games in the Hungarian first division, scoring six goals.

"His call-up is a message to young players that nothing is impossible," said Hungary coach Bertalan Bicskei.

Bicskei has called up two other uncapped youngsters to his 23-man squad, Robert Waltner of Videoton and Miklos Lendvai of Ferencvaros. Krisztian Lisztes of Stuttgart is a surprise omission from the squad.

Squad:

Goalkeepers: Gabor Kiraly (Hertha Berlin), Gabor Babos (MTK Budapest).

Defenders: Pal Lakos (Gyor ETO), Gyorgy Korsos (Gyor ETO), Vilmos Sebok (Ujpest), Csaba Feher (Ujpest), Tamas Peto (Ujpest), Janos Hrutka (Kaiserslautern), Janos Matyus (Ferencvaros), Tamas Szekeres (MTK Budapest)

Midfielders: Bela Illes (MTK Budapest), Pal Dardai (Hertha Berlin), Istvan Pisont (Eintracht Frankfurt), Miklos Lendvai (Ferencvaros), Jozsef Somogyi (Gyor ETO), Norbert Toth (Ujpest), Otto Vincze (Ferencvaros), Tamas Peto (Ujpest)

Forwards: Gabor Egressy (Diosgyor), Miklos Feher (Porto), Robert Waltner (Videoton), Miklos Herczeg (Ujpest), Jozsef Sebok (Zalaegerszeg).

FRENCH FIRST DIVISION TABLE

1. Olympique Marseille	14	11	3	0	29	10	36
2. Girondins Bordeaux	14	10	2	2	29	12	32
3. Rennes	14	8	3	3	18	14	27
4. Monaco	14	7	2	5	22	14	23
5. Olympique Lyon	14	5	6	3	18	11	21
6. Montpellier	14	6	2	6	26	24	20
7. Bastia	14	6	2	6	18	16	20
8. Nantes	14	5	4	5	16	16	19
9. AJ Auxerre	14	5	4	5	17	18	19
10. RC Lens	14	5	2	7	21	22	17
11. Paris St Germain	13	4	4	5	12	12	16
12. Strasbourg	13	4	4	5	10	13	16
13. Nancy	14	3	5	6	15	19	14
14. Metz	14	3	6	5	11	17	13
14. Le Havre	13	2	6	5	10	13	12
16. Sochaux	14	3	3	8	12	29	12
17. Toulouse	14	2	5	7	10	23	11
18. Lorient	13	1	5	7	10	21	8

Bordeaux in action on the weekend

Compiled by UK Soccer Weekly

BERGKAMP FIGHTS HIS FEAR

Dutch star Dennis Bergkamp is being counselled by a hypnotherapist to overcome his chronic fear of flying and may travel by air to Greece for Arsenal's crucial last Champions league group tie, it was reported.

The 29-year-old striker has already had four sessions with a consultant in a bid to help him make the Dec. 9, tie against Panathinaikos.

Hypnotherapist Daniel Tolomacs, who claims a 90 percent success rate, told The Daily Mail: 'Everyone knows that Dennis does not like flying but now with the treatment there is every chance he can overcome his fear.'

Bergkamp missed Arsenal's 3-1 defeat in Kiev last week increasing the club's anxiety for him to play in the Athens match, which could decide whether they qualify for the quarter-finals next March.

He said: 'It is something between me, the manager and Arsenal. Of course there are a lot of stories about my fear of flying but I am more concerned about the club's opinion.

'I have to work with the manager and the team and I will be guided by what they say.'

The Dutchman lost some close friends when a flight carrying Surinam-born Dutch players crashed in the early 1990s.

Then the former Ajax and Inter man pledged he would never sit in a plane again after a bomb hoax — by a Dutch journalist — during the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

George Graham's vision of transforming Tottenham Hotspur from under-achievers into championship challengers continued when he banned his players from eating junk food, using mobile phones and drinking alcohol for at least 72 hours before matches.

Graham, whose tough disciplinarian attitudes helped Tottenham's arch-rivals Arsenal win six major trophies in his eight-year reign at Highbury, is also insisting his players wear club blazers with shirts and ties on club duty rather than trainers and tracksuits.

And he is also banning card schools for cash, earrings and has ordered extra treatment for injured players.

Graham, who has been at Spurs for seven weeks, said: "Some people might think my attitude is a bit old-fashioned, but I don't want the distractions.

"Things have drifted here down the years and I don't want my Tottenham teams to get a reputation for sloppiness. I like discipline, and you will be amazed at the difference in the players attitude when it brings results."

Tottenham's attitude and work rate on the pitch have improved since Graham's arrival, but the team are still conceding sloppy goals and are currently 14th in the table.

As a first step towards stiffening his defence, Graham made his first signing for Spurs when he paid 1.75 million ($2.91 million) to Ipswich for Argentine defender Mauricio Traicco.

Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli continued his love affair with the English League Cup when he grabbed two goals as Chelsea thrashed a second-string Arsenal side 5-0 in their fourth-round clash at Highbury midweek.

Vialli made it five goals in two cup ties after his hat-trick against Aston Villa in the last round and Uruguayan Gustavo Poyet also scored twice as Arsenal, the league champions, paid dearly for fielding a weakened team.

Elsewhere first division Sunderland won a penalty shootout 5-4 after holding Premiership side Everton 1-1 at Goodison Park while Muzzy Izzet helped Leicester City score twice in the last two minutes to beat Leeds 2-1 at Filbert Street.

Manchester United also fielded a weakened team but still beat Nottingham Forest 2-1 at Old Trafford and Blackburn gained a much needed boost when they won a penalty shootout 4-2 at Newcastle after both sides missed spotkicks in normal time as the game finished 1-1 after extra time.

Arsenal recalled Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp but otherwise fielded a virtual reseve team against Chelsea, for whom Vialli started alongside Norwegian Tore Andre Flo in attack.

The visitors looked the more dangerous and went 1-0 up after 34 minutes after Poyet surged clear through only to be felled in the area by Gilles Grimandi.

Frenchman Frank Leboeuf slotted the spotkick past Alex Manninger to give the holders a deserved lead.

Four minutes after the interval it was 2-0 as Austrian Manninger woefully misjudged a through pass and Vialli gratefully pushed the ball into an empty net.

Arsenal pushed forward and were caught on the break after 65 minutes when Flo strode down the left and laid the ball back for Poyet whose sidefoot shot flicked off Nelson Vivas and into the net.

Poyet then laid on Vialli's second and Chelsea's fourth eight minutes later, chipping the ball over the Arsenal defence for the Italian to swivel and fire first time past a groping Manninger.

And after 80 minutes it was 5-0 as Poyet slid in to poke his second past Manninger as Arsenal fell apart.

Sunderland, who lost last season's first division play-off on penalties, triumphed at the expense of Walter Smith's Everton.

Sunderland goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen was the hero, saving Ivory Coast striker Ibrahim Bakayoko's kick continuing the miserable run the striker has endured since his 4.5 million pound (6.7 million dollar) move from French side Montpellier last month.

Michael Bridges had given the first division leaders the lead after 29 minutes before Scottish international John Collins curled in a superb free-kick to equalize for Everton 16 minutes from normal time.

Leicester's American goalkeeper Kasey Keller gifted Leeds a 1-0 lead after 17 minutes when he comically failed to keep out a tame header from Harry Kewell.

Leeds looked to be through until Izzet lifted an equaliser into the net after 88 minutes and incredibly then won a penalty in injury time which Garry Parker converted.

At Old Trafford, Forest wasted a string of first half chances and were made to pay when Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored twice in three minutes to put United in control.

Steve Stone then blasted a superb 30-yard shot into the top corner for Forest but the Midlanders failed to force the game into extra-time.

England captain Alan Shearer headed Newcastle in front against Blackburn but Rovers hit back against the run of play on the half-hour when skipper Tim Sherwood turned and fired into the net.

George Graham has put the discipline back in the Spurs camp.

After 86 minutes Shearer blasted a penalty over the bar and, amazingly, Blackburn's Jeff Kenna also saw a spotkick saved in the final minute of normal time to send the tie into extra-time, which produced no goals.

In the shootout both Kenna and Shearer scored but Aaron Hughes missed crucially for Newcastle as Blackburn triumphed 4-2.

Chelsea player-manager Gianluca Vialli has backed Pierluigi Casiraghi to return quicker than expected from injury and has ruled out any immediate move into the transfer market to replace him.

Casiraghi underwent an exploratory operation last week on the injury to his right knee which he sustained in an accidental collision with goalkeeper Shaka Hislop and defender Rio Ferdinand at West Ham on Sunday.

Surgeons also took the opportunity to repair some of the damage to his knee ligaments but are now expected to wait for a further four to six weeks before preparing for a second, more major operation.

The Italian is set to be out for several months, with a return to action before the end of this season still unlikely.

But Vialli said: "Gigi is a very strong lad. This is not the first time that he has got injured so I think he knows what he has to face and he can cope with that.

"I'm sure that he's going to get over it very soon, sooner than expected, and will wear a Chelsea shirt very soon.

"At the moment he's a bit down of course but he's really looking forward to this operation so he can think about the day when he will be able to play football again."

Craig Wilson's UK Stories

Hackney in London was the recent venue for Anarchy Week, a five day "celebration of subversion".

As part of the proceedings, sandwiched between discussion groups and insurrection workshops, the ferals, punks and skins took place in a five-a-side soccer tournament.

The tournament came to an abrupt end when one group of Anarchists found the rules of football to be an "unnecessary restriction of their right to determine their own lives, and a denial of their right to self-expression".

They then proceeded to tear down the goal posts as a symbolic gesture against a "goal-ridden society".

English Premier Division Wimbledon, having failed in a move to relocate to Dublin, have now turned their attention to Belfast in Northern Ireland.

Wimbledon struggle to draw crowds, despite surviving against the odds in the Premier English competition. They have had the worst single-match home crowds in all six years of the competition.

Their bid to become Belfast United looks to have foundered at the hands of the Irish Football Association, who have opposed the move, saying "Wimbledon will not be coming to Northern Ireland. As far as the authorities are concerned it is a non-starter".

The people of Belfast feel differently. In an indication of the air of optimism now blowing through the province, 68% of soccer fans surveyed by the Belfast United consortium are in favour of having a multi-national, non-sectarian Premier Division club in the city.

When Portsmouth amateurs Marconi (no relation!) turned up for their local Cup match against Dunham, they discovered that a forgetful kit man had forgotten to pack eleven pairs of shorts.

Rather than delay the game, and despite FIFA Law #4, which states that the wearing of shorts is "basic compulsory equipment", the referee, ruled that the game go ahead in underpants.

Order was restored after eleven minutes when replacement shorts arrived and the match held up while Marconi re-bagged. Perhaps ruffled by the indignity of it all, the team went on to lose the match 2-1 after extra time.

The worst nickname in English soccer? It has to be "The Monkey Stranglers", unofficial tag of Hartlepool United.

Apparently, during the Napoleonic wars, the people of Hartlepool, being relatively unworldly in such matters, arrested a chimpanzee. Having never seen a Frenchman, they believed it to be a French spy, and it was duly tried, court martialled, and sent to the gallows.

The people of the town itself never call the club anything but 'The Pool', but supporters of local rivals Darlington and Scunthorpe know better, and insist on using the more imaginative sobriquet.

Vinnie Jones isn't the only football tough guy to be making it big on the silver screen. French maestro Eric Cantona has recently entered stage left as the pantalooned French ambassador in Elizabeth.

Aussie actress Cate Blanchett, starring in the lead role, and with no comprehension of the greatness of the former kung-fu king of Old Trafford, was bemused to see movie extras and stars alike hounding the Frenchman for autographs at breaks in the filming.

She made an enquiry of English theatrical legend and Chelsea supporter Sir Richard Attenbrough. "My dear," he replied, "Haven't you seen him play? The man is God !".

(With thanks: Hackney Gazette, Belfast Telegraph, Steve Spartak, Mission Impossible, Eddie Greenaway).

Craig Wilson's radio show, 'The Magic Sponge' can be heard on FBI radio 96.9FM in Sydney, on Saturday mornings.

Compiled by UK Soccer Weekly

LATEST NEWS

England coach Glenn Hoddle named three uncapped players in his squad for next week's friendly against the Czech Republic at Wembley.

But Hoddle has ignored the campaign for the recall of Middlesbrough midfielder Paul Gascoigne, who has made a successful return to action following treatment for depression and alcohol abuse.

Ipswich goalkeeper Richard Wright, Aston Villa midfielder Lee Hendrie and Leicester striker Emile Heskey are the new additions after impressive performances at Under-21 level.

Liverpool forward Robbie Fowler also earns a call-up ahead of in-form Manchester United striker Andy Cole.

Liverpool midfielder Paul Ince is left out of the squad as he is suspended for England's next competitive game against Poland in March, while Tim Flowers, Phil Neville and Ray Parlour are dropped.

Tony Adams, Michael Owen and Teddy Sheringham miss out through injury but Jamie Redknapp is included despite suffering from a knee problem.

Hoddle revealed he had been impressed with Gascoigne's performances for Middlesbrough but felt it was too early to bring the troubled star back into the England squad.

He said: "Paul has had two games and he started off very well. He's still short of fitness and next week has come just a bit quick for him."

"In February (against France) he will be in much better shape to be brought back in if he has done it on the pitch."

Hoddle also revealed that Ince had been rested even though he was available for the forthcoming friendlies.

He added: "Paul has had a hard World Cup and probably played every game for Liverpool and it's a good time for him to have a rest. "He is not available for the next Euro 2000 qualifier against Poland but that doesn't mean he might not be brought in for the friendly against France."

Goalkeepers: David Seaman (Arsenal), Nigel Martyn (Leeds United), Richard Wright (Ipswich)

Defenders: Martin Keown (Arsenal), Andy Hinchcliffe (Sheffield Wednesday), Graeme Le Saux (Chelsea), Gary Neville (Manchester United), Rio Ferdinand (West Ham United)

Midfielders: Nicky Butt (Manchester United), Lee Hendrie (Aston Villa), David Batty (Newcastle United), Darren Anderton (Tottenham), David Beckham (Manchester United), Paul Merson (Aston Villa), Jamie Redknapp (Liverpool), Paul Scholes (Manchester United)

Strikers: Alan Shearer (Newcastle United), Ian Wright (West Ham United), Robbie Fowler (Liverpool), Dion Dublin (Aston Villa), Emile Heskey (Leicester City).

The England coach views this Wednesday's match as the ideal chance to experiment with some new players away from the pressure of qualifying for the European Championships in 2000.

He added: "I have been very impressed with Richard Wright over the last two seasons and he is maturing this year.

It's a good time for him to come in as he's in a confident mood."

"Lee Hendrie has responded very well to being in the side at Aston Villa and it's a step up for him.

"He has worked very closely with Under 21 coach Peter Taylor and I would like to have a closer look at him.

"Emile Heskey has come close to breaking a record with his appearances at Under 21 Level. He is not yet the finished article but his next move is to step up and train with the Seniors to see how he progresses."

However England captain Alan Shearer looks set to miss the friendly at Wembley after injuring his hamstring in a league match on Saturday.

Newcastle United manager Ruud Gullit said he doubted Shearer could play after he had been substituted at halftime.

"He has a hamstring problem and I don't think he can possibly join up with England now," he said after the 1-1 draw with Sheffield Wednesday. "If he can't play for us I don't think he can play for England on Wednesday."

Replay dates for English F.A. Cup first round matches: Monday, November 23 Stevenage v Runcorn, Tuesday, November 24 York v Enfield Slough v Macclesfield Kidderminster v Plymouth Rochdale v Scarborough Exeter v Tamworth West Auckland v Yeovil

Former England international Graham Rix will appear in a London court next month charged with having sex with a minor and indecently assaulting her on three occasions, police said on the weekend.

Rix, 41, a former Arsenal player who won 17 caps in his international career, is now a coach at Chelsea.

A police spokesman said Rix was accused of unlawful intercourse with a girl under the age of 16, the age of heterosexual consent in Britain, in February and of indecently assaulting the same person twice in January and once in February.

WALES

Bangor City	1
Aberystwyth	2
Caernarfon Town	1
Connah's Quay	1
Conwy	2
Caersws	1
Holywell Town	1
Carmarthen Town	1
ICT Cardiff	1
TNS Llansantffraid	1
Newtown	4
Afan Lido	0
Rhyl	0
Barry Town	6
Cwmbran	3
Rhayader Town	6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Barry Town	11	9	1	1	37	7	28
2. Aberystwyth	11	7	4	0	23	9	25
3. Cwmbran	11	8	0	3	30	13	24
4. Haverfordwest	10	5	2	3	21	14	17
5. Newtown	10	4	4	2	17	13	16
6. Connah's Quay	10	4	4	2	15	14	16
7. Caernarfon Town	1	3	6	2	14	19	15
8. TNS Llansantffraid	10	3	5	2	18	11	14
9. ICT Cardiff	11	3	4	4	17	11	13
10. Carmarthen Town	11	3	2	6	16	19	11
11. Bangor City	10	3	2	5	12	16	11
12. Conwy	11	3	2	6	15	20	11
13. Holywell	11	2	5	4	17	31	11
14. Caersws	10	3	1	6	13	21	10
15. Afan Lido	10	2	2	6	6	18	8
16. Rhayader Town	9	2	1	6	13	29	7
17. Rhyl	11	2	1	8	17	36	7

SCOTTISH PREMIER

Rangers' record signing Andrei Kanchelskis helped to repay some of his fee by striking the late goal which gave his side a 2-1 victory over Aberdeen in the Scottish premier league on Saturday.

The Russian international, who was signed from Italy's Fiorentina for 5.5 million pounds ($9.16 million) during the summer, stretched Rangers' lead over Kilmarnock at the top to six points with 30 points from 14 games.

Kilmarnock drew 1-1 at Dundee and has 24 points while third-placed Celtic lost 2-1 at St. Johnstone.

Dick Advocaat's team looked to be heading for a draw at Ibrox after Aberdeen's Scotland international Eoin Jess equalized in the 56th minute, shooting past Rangers goalkeeper Antti Niemi after controlling the ball on his chest.

Giovanni van Bronckhorst had put Rangers in front after just eight minutes, taking a pass from Joerg Albertz before firing in a left foot shot.

It was the Dutchman's fourth goal of the season.

Kanchelskis then struck in the 82nd minute, cutting down the right wing and into the area before thundering a left foot shot past Jim Leighton.

Champions Celtic came unstuck at Perth to a St. Johnstone side which lost 7-0 to Rangers last Sunday.

A goal in first-half injury time from Portuguese striker Miguel Simao gave St. Johnstone a valuable lead before Henrik Larsson equalized for Celtic in the 51st minute, finishing off Mark Burchill's cross for his 11th goal of the season.

But a blunder from Norway's Vidar Riseth, trying to pass the ball across his own area, allowed St. Johnstone's teenage striker Kieran McAnespie to head a 78th minute winner.

Celtic is now 10 points behind Rangers going into next weekend's Old Firm clash.

Jerome Vereille secured a point for Kilmarnock at Dundee with a 45th minute volley after Eddie Annand's seventh goal of the season, in the 29th minute, had put the home team in front.

Motherwell's Owen Coyle scored twice in the 3-2 home defeat of Hearts.

Celtic employed panic measures to defuse their goalkeeping crisis last night when they signed up Liverpool's fourth choice, Tony Warner, as a stand-in for the injured Jonathan Gould and Stewart Kerr.

The 24-year-old will make his debut for the club against St Johnstone at McDiarmid Park this afternoon but it was a move which smacked of desperation given that the 24-year-old has never played a first team game for the Anfield club.

Blackpool's Steve Banks remains a transfer target of the Parkhead club for a permanent move but three other goalies had been approached to help the club out before Warner accepted an offer he couldn't refuse.

A move was made for Coventry City veteran Steve Ogrizovic but that was refused by Gordon Strachan.

Everton were then contacted about their third choice, Paul Gerrard, but the player wasn't keen to take on a loan deal which would have seen him play only a handful of games.

MACCA'S 'REAL-DEAL' SET TO HAPPEN?

The England forward Liverpool's Steve McManaman can move for free under the Bosman Ruling at the end of the season and would be able to negotiate officially with another club after January 1.

But yesterday, Real Madrid president Lorenzo Sanz claimed they had already offered him a four-year deal with a fifth year option. Sanz also said that after discussions with one of the player's advisers, Colin Gordon, previous problems over McManaman's demands had been settled.

'Our position with Steve McManaman has moved forward to the point where we are now thinking in terms of a satisfactory conclusion,' said Sanz.

But, Liverpool vice chairman Peter Robinson said: 'I was very surprised to hear of that statement from Real Madrid as they have made no contact with this club.' The European champions are among nine leading clubs who are interested in McManaman.

The others are AC and Inter Milan, Roma,Lazio, Fiorentina, Sampdoria, Parma and Borussia Dortmund. Gerard Houllier marked his first day in sole charge of Liverpool by saying that he believed McManaman is almost certain to seek an even bigger fortune than he already has by moving abroad.

Liverpool's original aim was to sign McManaman on for five more years but their only hope now is to persuade him to agree a shorter deal.

Houllier said: 'Steve wants to experience playing abroad at some stage of his career, and no-one can blame him for that. I certainly have to respect that because, after all, I am a foreigner plying my trade abroad.'

UEFA last night banned McManaman for two matches and Paul Ince for three after they were sent off in Valencia for violent conduct. Valencia's Amedeo Carboni, sent off with them, also received a two-game ban.

Houllier is considering making $8m-rated AZ Alkmaar central defender Peter Wijker his first signing.

The avenue for a takeover of Celtic by the consortium led by Kenny Dalglish and Jim Kerr was dramatically reopened on the weekend when the bidders declared that new financial backers were in place and Fergus McCann acknowledged an interest in hearing what their proposals might be.

It was a distinct turnaround from midweek events which saw the consortium's initial financial advisors withdraw their backing — a move which threatened the overall credibility of the group.

Moves were afoot to open channels of communication between the two sides, however, with a mood of optimism detected among the words of statements issued by both sides over the possibility of constructive dialogue.

Compiled and written by Daryl Katz

UK

Premier highlights

ARSENAL v SPURS

The return of George Graham to Highbury on Saturday provided evidence that the Arsenal support have in no way forgiven him for crossing the great divide to bitter rivals Tottenham Hotspur.

A hostile reception for Graham preceded an encounter that produced a typical, fast-paced derby with much in the way of endeavour but little in the way of fluid football.

The early exchanges produced end to end action more as a result of the squandering of possession under pressure than inventive and flowing play.

The first meaningful effort on goal came from the superb French midfielder Emmanuel Petit after 7 minutes. Good work from PatrickVieira and Ray Parlour in the Arsenal half saw Petit run on and unleash a skimming long range shot, forcing Espen Baardsen to go down sharply and make the save at full stretch.

The challenges flew in from all angles, making it difficult for either team to find their rhythm. After 17 minutes, Marc Overmars forced another save from Baardsen with a shot from the left and three minutes later Nicolas Anelka showed his pace as he ran onto a long ball from Martin Keown, but shot wide of goal.

Petit and Vieira gave Arsenal some semblance of composure in midfield as they attempted to spread the ball wide. Tottenham provided evidence of their capability to break effectively when Steffen Iverson left Tony Adams trailing. David Seaman produced a superb save as the Norwegian bore down on goal.

Arsenal applied pressure as the first half closed. Winterburn brought a save from Baardsen with a long range effort before a turn and powerful shot from Frederik Ljungberg forced Baardsen to go down sharply again to prevent the ball going just inside the post.

The most spectacular effort of the half came two minutes before the break when Dixon crossed from the right and Anelka volleyed powerfully but straight at Baardsen who produced a fine reflex save. Tottenham broke again immediately, but a poor ball from Nielson meant the opportunity was lost.

The second half continued in the same vein as the first, Tottenham this time taking the attacking initiative. Anderton saw his shot blocked following some confusion in the Arsenal penalty area and minutes later Chris Armstrong played the ball across the face of the opposition goal.

Arsenal then began to establish more control in midfield and after 55 minutes Winterburn disposessed Anderton and crossed for Ljungberg whose first touch let him down when he might have scored.

Just after the hour, Wenger withdrew Ljungberg from his first London derby and Christoper Wreh entered the fray to add additional pace and power in support of Anelka up front.

The frenetic pace continued with Arsenal attacking and Tottenham showing both the heart and the willingness to keep them at bay.

After 64 minutes, Parlour headed across the face of goal and moments later Anelka shot powerfully into the side netting as Arsenal stepped up the push for three points. After 68 minutes, Overmars found himself in on goal but Baardsen was out quickly to close him down and three minutes later Anelka fired over.

Armstrong and Viera at Highbury

George Graham attempted to instill some attacking inspiration into his side when he replaced Colin Calderwood with Andy Sinton 13 minutes from time, and Arsene Wenger brought on Luis Boa Morte for Anelka.

Two minutes later Baardsen produced yet another save, this time scrambling away an awkward bouncing ball from a Wreh shot. Arsenal never relented but Tottenham refused to buckle, continuing to absorb the onslaught while looking to break out.

Action late in the game saw Baardsen save again at his near post from Adams, and Iverson shot wide in an attempt to steal what may have been an undeserved victory.

In the final minutes a Petit free kick from 25 yards was deflected for the first of a series of late corners. However, Baardsen was in no mood to concede and Tottenham held out for a share of the spoils.

Arsenal may well have come away disappointed from a match in which they created by far the better chances. Baardsen was much the busier of the two goalkeepers, but George Graham has instilled both a fighting attitude and defensive discipline in his short stay at White Hart Lane.

Tottenham battled hard for 90 minutes, and in the end deserved to earn what must have been a satisfying point for their manager.

MAN UTD v BLACKBURN

Manchester United proved their own worst enemies at Old Trafford on Saturday, turning what should have been a canter into a hard fought 3-2 victory over a spirited Blackburn Rovers.

Struggling initially to find the flowing movement of recent weeks, United should have been ahead after 20 minutes through Andy Cole, but the striker blasted the ball against the woodwork from close range.

Nicky Butt flies over Rovers' Henchoz, with Darren Peacock looking on.

However, United did not wait long for the opening goal. Dwight Yorke won the ball from Christian Dailly midway inside the Rovers half and released Paul Scholes on the left to tuck the ball home past Rovers goalkeeper John Filan.

In the 43rd minute, Yorke grabbed a second for United as he collected a Nicky Butt pass and rifled home his 10th of the season.

United increased the pressure and Stephane Henchoz survived a penalty appeal for handball before David Beckham fired a 30-yard effort just over the bar.

The chances of a Rovers comeback appeared remote in the 48th minute when captain Tim Sherwood was dismissed for elbowing Beckham in an unnecessary incident.

Blackburn responded by bringing on Dario Marcolin for Damien Duff but their plight worsened when Scholes secured his second goal of the afternoon after 58 minutes.

With the game seemingly won, Ferguson replaced Scholes with Jordi Cruyff after 62 minutes, but Rovers launched a stirring comeback in the final quarter.

First, Marcolin fired home his first goal for Rovers in the 66th minute.

Seven minutes later Nathan Blake headed home their second with his first goal since his move from Bolton.

When Cruyff pulled up with a hamstring injury 10 minutes from time, Ferguson replaced him with Roy Keane in an attempt to steady the United nerves. Still Rovers pushed forward, but United held out to prevent a sensational comeback.

SOUTHAMPTON v VILLA

Dion Dublin followed up his debut double strike for Aston Villa with a hat-trick in the 4-1 hammering of Southampton at The Dell on Saturday.

John Gregory's side extended their run of form to 12 games unbeaten, sending a defiant message to fellow title challengers Manchester United and Arsenal.

Dublin opened the scoring for the league leaders after just three minutes.

A pass from Lee Hendrie found Steve Watson wide on the right and the former Newcastle player sent over a cross which Dublin headed home, giving goalkeeper Paul Jones no chance.

Southampton battled hard and Matthew Le Tissier provided Villa with some anxious moments either side of half time.

Scott Hiley found Le Tissier unmarked inside the six-yard box but Michael Oakes moved quickly off his line to throw himself at the feet of the Southampton player and prevent a certain goal.

From the corner which followed, Southampton captain Jason Dodd let fly with a shot from outside the box only for Oakes to parry clear once again.

Villa had a lucky escape when Ugo Ehiogu smashed the ball against his own bar on the volley from a cross by Stuart Ripley.

Villa seemed in danger of collapse when a fabulous piece of skill from Le Tissier put Saints level after 53 minutes.

Half-time substitute James Beattie won a towering header and Le Tissier held off challenges from three Villa defenders before cutting back a left-foot shot past the diving Oakes for his fourth goal of the season.

Villa stepped up a gear however, Hendrie and Dublin at the heart of the revival. In the 56th minute Hendrie found Dublin on the edge of the area and the striker curled a right-foot shot accurately past Jones.

Stan Collymore had a hand in the third after 77 minutes, his accurate centre allowing former Arsenal player Paul Merson to take the ball in his stride and lash home an unstoppable effort.

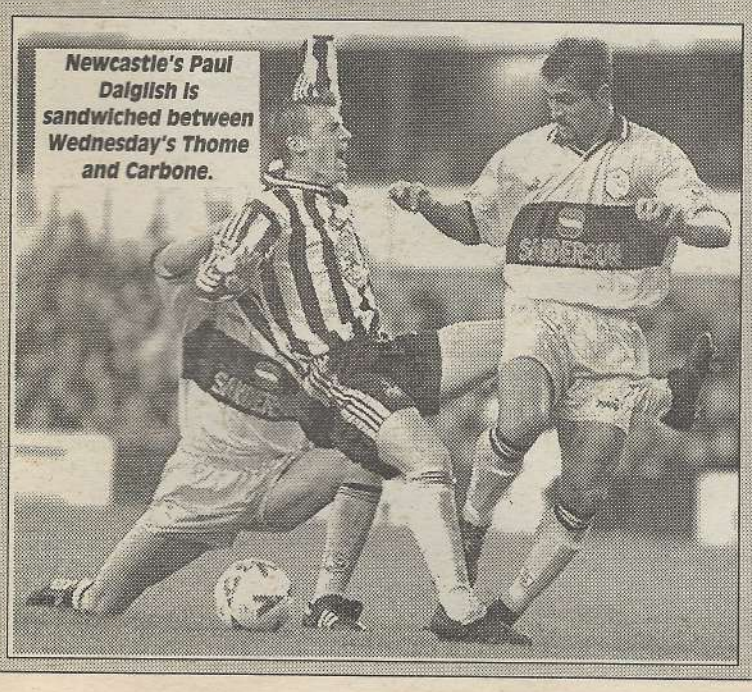
Five minutes from time, Dublin completed his hat-trick from a Hendrie corner, tapping in from close range.

Gerard Houllier made an inauspicious start to his spell as lone Liverpool manager on Saturday, seeing his side crash to a 3-1 home defeat at the hands of Leeds United.

Liverpool drew first blood in this tense confrontation when they earned a penalty through Karlheinz Riedle in the 68th minute. Robbie Fowler lashed home the spot kick to give Liverpool the lead.

Leeds equalised controversially, breaking quickly after a Liverpool penalty appeal was turned down for 18-year-old Alan Smith to hammer home a 79th minute equaliser.

Two minutes later Leeds took the lead when Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink smashed a loose ball past David James from 15 yards. As Liverpool pushed forward in search of a goal, Hasselbaink surged from the halfway line four minutes from time and cut inside to secure victory with an emphatic finish.


Newcastle's Paul Dalglish is sandwiched between Wednesday's Thome and Carbone.

The defeat was the third in a row for Liverpool in the league, and their third consecutive loss at Anfield.

At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea defeated Wimbledon 3-0 in a London derby.

Gianfranco Zola opened the scoring after 31 minutes, capitalising on good work from Dan Petrescu and Tore Andre Flo.

The second goal arrived on 54 minutes, Petrescu patiently waiting for Gustavo Poyet to break from midfield before slotting the ball into his path. The prolific Uruguayan applied the finishing touch.

From that moment on, Chelsea produced exhibition football as they mesmerised Wimbledon with their passing and movement.

Petrescu scored the third in the 65th minute, breaking clear onto a Zola through-ball. After seeing Ben Thatcher block his initial effort, Petruscu slotted home at the second attempt.

Meanwhile, a battle of promoted sides at The Valley saw Middlesbrough substitute Phil Stamp clinch a late equaliser to ensure a 1-1 draw with Charlton Athletic.

The home side led somewhat against the run of play through Clive Mendonca's 37th-minute penalty after Paul Gascoigne had been penalised.

Boro pinned the home side back in their own half after the break and Stamp, on as a half-time substitute for Gascoigne, made amends for his needless sending-off last week with a 75th-minute header past the helpless Sasa Ilic.

It was a fourth consecutive draw in the league for Boro and was all they deserved after dominating large periods of the game without creating enough clear cut openings.

At St James Park, Newcastle handed struggling Sheffield Wednesday a vital away point with a desperate defensive display.

Paul Dalglish gave the Magpies a fourth-minute lead with his first premiership goal, but the home supporters found themselves frustrated with another lacklustre performance by a team still lacking the flair that they desire.

United failed to build on their advantage and the arrival of Jim Magilton marked Wednesday's best spell of the game as they started to make their presence felt all over the pitch.

The United defence was rooted to the spot ten minutes from time as Petter Rudi pounced to claim the equaliser.

Finally, a superb strike from Frank Lampard clinched victory for West Ham in a five-goal thriller against Leicester at Upton Park.

Leicester took the lead in the 27th minute, Neil Lennon carving out an opening and Muzzy Izzet providing a cool finish.

West Ham fought back well and their industry paid dividends when Lampard refused to give up a 50-50 challenge with Leicester defender Matt Elliott and the ball popped up into the box with Paul Kitson on the charge. Kitson kept his nerve and stroked a low shot into Kasey Keller's bottom right corner.

Steve Lomas edged the Hammers in front when his drive took a cruel deflection off Steve Walsh, giving Keller no chance. Lampard sealed the victory when he latched onto a 75th-minute Eyal Berkovic free kick and powered it home through a Leicester wall.

Leicester pulled one back through a Lampard own goal, the ball deflecting off his shins and looping over Shaka Hislop, but West Ham held out to take the points.

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